Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, DECEMBER 23-25, 2016 | High 3°C/Low 1°C Sunny

Fa,la, la, la
Meet the GO driver inspired by Christmas songs metroNEWS

Metro's Holiday Wish to you

THIS NEWS IS GOOD

AFTER A YEAR THAT FELT LIKE THE WORLD WAS MORE DIVIDED THAN EVER, WE'VE CHOSEN TO FILL THIS EDITION WITH STORIES THAT BRING US ALL TOGETHER
Plus **How to listen with humility and empathy to those you disagree with this Christmas**

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Rosemary Westwood: You can find happiness in the time of Trump. **World**

SAFE AT LAST HAPPIER TIMES FOR ALEPPO'S TWEETING GIRL Bana Alabed, known as Aleppo's tweeting girl, was feared dead after she stopped sending messages from the warzone. The seven-year-old was evacuated on Monday and she and her family are now safe in Ankara, Turkey. Here she is with her mother Fatemah, her father Ghassan and her brothers Nour and Laith on Thursday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

This news is *good*

Cathrin Bradbury
Editor-in-Chief
Metro News Canada

We are about to commit journalistic heresy. Today all seven editions of Metro are publishing only positive news stories. We've gone so far as to call it the happy edition.

Before every journalist in the country starts to hurl rocks at us, let me explain.

Earlier this year I visited Detroit. Like everyone else, I'd heard a lot about the city's comeback — crime is down, investment is up, and the Detroit Pistons are relocating from their suburban headquarters to join the city core. It was great to see it up close: At night people poured out of packed bars to walk through the well-lit downtown — 40,000 new streetlights and counting.

Still, it's not nirvana, or anything like it. The city's violent crime rate remains the second worst in the U.S. The wrecking balls go non-stop, but they can't tear down the burnt-out husks of buildings just a block or two off the main drag fast enough to keep up with the city's new idea of itself.

The local press isn't keeping up either. The major TV and newspaper outlets lead with crime news every day, still covering Detroit in a way that marginalizes the very place they are reporting on. The people who stayed in Detroit, and the ones who are coming back, have an ambition for their city and the media doesn't seem to be listening.

As a news editor, I took a message from Detroit. I started to notice how media here does the same grim reporting on Canadian cities, and it takes a toll on us just as much as our readers.

Managing editor Angela Mullins, who runs Metro Toronto and oversees all seven Metros across Canada, refuses to watch the local television news with her wife anymore because it's "so bloody depressing." A young Metro reader, 23, told me recently that she had come to hate the TV and newspaper coverage of her city. "It's only bad news."

We've had plenty of bad news this year. Six weeks ago we worked into the night covering the U.S. election. To say that we were on edge at the office the next day doesn't quite cover it. If a cat had walked by we would have flung it out into the cold and rain. And we like pets here — just look at our covers.

Ira Lamjca, Metro's Canada, World and Business editor, was particularly affected.

The story of how Ira, 26, immigrated to Canada from Albania when she was 8 was so inspiring we're going to launch a whole series around it next year. Sneak peek: A message in a bottle from Newfoundland honeymooners that washed up on the shores of her village started her saga.

> **I've thought a lot about our soul at Metro.**

Ira's bountiful optimism opens up a room. So when she sat down at the news desk and started to cry over the election results, it was tough. "This is much harder on me than I thought it was going to be. I don't know anything anymore. I don't know if what I'm doing matters anymore."

I didn't have an answer for her then, but her loss of purpose made me think about something Marty Baron said when he came into Star Metro Media to talk about journalism. Baron is the executive editor of the Washington Post and the editor on whom last year's Oscar winner Spotlight was based. God, in other words, to newspaper editors everywhere. Baron said that when people talk about your "brand" what they are really talking about is the soul of a news organization, something he spends a lot of time thinking about.

I've thought a lot about our soul at Metro since the U.S. election. What I can say now to Ira on this wintry day before Christmas is that maybe bad news is a given in a naturally adversarial media. But it needn't be the only given. Hope is as true as despair. Even with this week's terrible news out of Berlin and Turkey, columnist Vicky Mochama, who like Ira immigrated to Canada as a child, when she was 5 from Kenya, offered readers a way forward, urging us to do more, much more, and make welcoming refugees a way of life here. "Twenty-five thousand Syrians is not enough," she writes.

In 2017, Metro, in its optimistic soul, is committed to share with our readers the best version of our cities, and when they don't live up to that version, to push for solutions until they do. We'll continue to use the Metro Effect to drive positive change — as we have on issues such as pedestrian safety and affordable rent. When we don't like what we see — racism on our streets or women shut out of city boards — we'll keep telling you that Metro Ain't Having It.

And finally, we invite you, our readers, to embrace everyday activism and fight to make your cities the best they can be. And then we want to hear about it, so we can tell *your* story.

Happy holidays from all of us at Metro.

MORE POSITIVE NEWS ONLINE

Because there is so much that we couldn't fit it all in the paper...

Get holiday cheer on the GO

TRANSIT

Train worker remixes classic songs to get riders in spirit

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

He may not exactly be Santa. But one GO train worker has made a name for himself — simply by adding a cheerful tone to his work.

Meet Gord Plumridge, the GO customer service ambassador who's taken to remixing well-known carols and bringing an extra dose of holiday spirit to riders on the Barrie line.

"Six years ago when I started, people would look at me like, 'what, are you crazy?' Well, I guess I was a little bit," said the 59-year-old retired teacher.

"Now, it's got to a point where people have song requests, and they sing along when I start singing."

Gord Plumridge has become famous for his parody Christmas carols on the Go train. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

The very first song he created — which also happens to be one of his favourites — is a spoof of Let It Snow, in which he makes references encouraging people to use Go Train services.

It goes like this:

When the weather outside is frightful, the train runs so delightful, when snow really starts to blow, take the Go, take the Go, take the Go.

When the weather outside is crazy, and you're feeling kind of lazy, whether shopping or going to the show, take the Go, take the Go, take the Go.

Plumridge is also known for remixing songs to mark other special occasions throughout the year.

And he dresses the part too, wearing Valentine's Day themed ties or maybe a Blue Jays shirt if it happens to be baseball season.

"I've got hugs, high fives and applause from all sorts of people," Plumridge said of the response.

In particular, he remembers one woman who came to him in tears and told him she was having a terrible day until she heard him sing.

"That evening I decided to write even more songs," he said.

"I've always wanted to make a difference and, in my job, I figured it starts with putting a smile on people's face."

> **I've got hugs, high fives and applause from all sorts of people.**
> Gord Plumridge

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ETOBICOKE

Christmas tree cheer for one and all

Etobicoke resident Jessey Njau is giving away Christmas trees. COURTESY JESSEY NJAU

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

It might just be a saving grace for those stuck without a Christmas tree.

Jessey Njau put 30 of them on his North Etobicoke lawn Thursday, offering them up for free.

The former IT professional recently started learning about urban farming. And, as he told Metro: "I have been so fortunate to have access to quite a bit of trees and food and farmers.

"I just wanted to give back to my community," he added, "just to share the love of what I'm getting."

A friend of his who owns a 40-acre forest north of Brampton was going to get rid of the trees to make way for new ones, so Njau bought them.

He thought about selling them but decided to give them away instead.

"People are still coming out looking at it like, "What's going on here?" he said.

> **I just wanted to give back to my community.**
> Jessey Njau

Toronto Marlie Christopher Gibson gives some attention to 10-month-old Frederica, a pug-beagle mix at the Toronto South Animal Shelter. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Paws-itive year for pets

HUMANE SOCIETIES

Adoption rates rising across country, data indicates

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

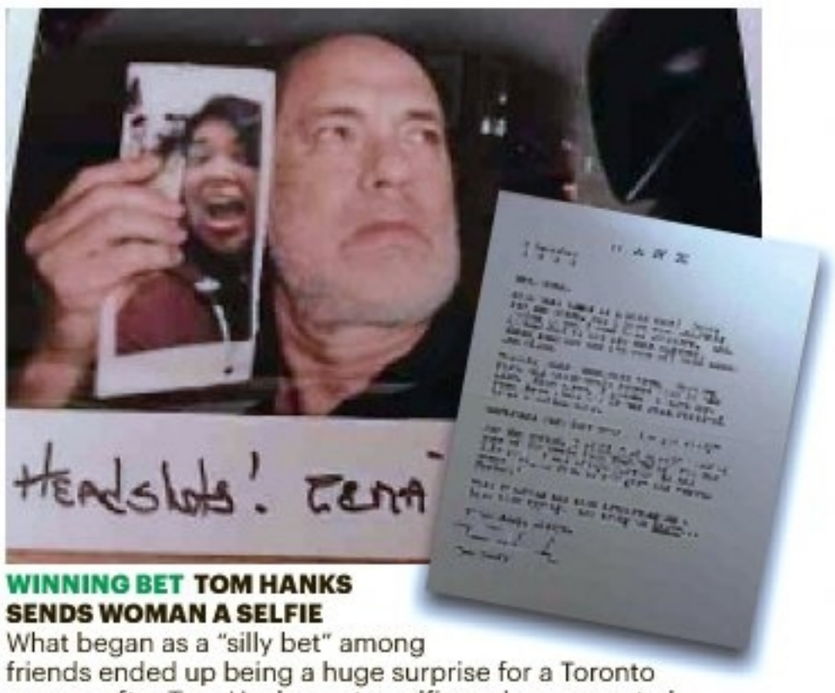
Humans may have had a lot to complain about in 2016, but it turns out it was a banner year for cats and dogs.

Adoption rates were up and euthanasia cases were down at animal shelters across the country, according to data from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. It's a trend that's "absolutely" visible in Toronto, says Elizabeth Glibbery, manager of Toronto Animal Services.

"We've seen a significant decline in the number of cats coming in to shelters over the past two or three years, and because of that decline, we've made a concerted effort to decrease our euthanasia rates," she said.

To date, Animal Services has euthanized 1,369 domestic animals this year, compared to 1,675 in 2015. Animals are only put down animals in extreme cases of illness, injury or behavioural issues, Glibbery said. Half of all animals euthanized are brought to shelters by owners because they're very old or sick. In most cases, Glibbery said staff successfully rehabilitate animals, or find partner organizations to care for them if they're not adopted.

She attributed improved adoption rates to people having "bad experiences" sourcing pets online.



WINNING BET TOM HANKS SENDS WOMAN A SELFIE
What began as a "silly bet" among friends ended up being a huge surprise for a Toronto woman after Tom Hanks sent a selfie and response to her handwritten fan letter. In her letter, she told Hanks about a few favourite movies that he starred in. She also asked for a selfie with the star. A little bit over a week later, Zena Gopal received the response she never imagined, a photo and a typed letter. PHOTOS: COURTESY ZENA GOPAL; TEXT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Literacy trumps racism

COMMUNITY ACTION

East-enders launch book drive for stories with diversity

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

When racist signs popped up around Stan Wadlow Park encouraging people to join white supremacist groups last month, the neighbours knew they couldn't just let it go.

Text messages led to a Facebook group with more than 900 people and that led to the East End Anti-Racism Collective.

Now they've launched a book drive to get stories with diverse characters and different cultures into local schools.

"We're thinking about ways that we can fight racism without actually physical fighting," organizer Sheila Colla said.

People are encouraged to buy books at local bookstores or get them from the group's Amazon wish list. They can be dropped off at Old's Cool General Store on Westlake Avenue.

The publishing world is "almost rigged against" these kinds of books since it's hard for writers of colour to break through and rarer still to see their books in schools, Dhanani said.

Fellow collective member Saba Khan said one of the effort's goals is to get away from the "whole niche thing" and assuming that, for example, only South Asian kids want to read about other South Asian kids.

"We want to break that whole mould, we want kids of all backgrounds seeing kids of all backgrounds," she said. "We gotta' start 'em young."

Zhara Dhanani, Sheila Colla, Caroline Starr and Saba Khan are part of a community group of east-end residents collecting books about multiculturalism and social justice that can be distributed to schools in the area. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

KASHECHEWAN FIRST NATION

River journey helps youth reconnect

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Alexandra Shimo CONTRIBUTED

When Alexandra Shimo set out to investigate the water crisis at Kashechewan First Nation, she discovered something else: Despite living in a remote area, indigenous youth were disconnected from nature.

"Some of them had never been into the bush before. They suffered from nature deficit disorder," said Shimo, a Toronto author whose book, Invisible North, explores the precarious conditions of life in the northern Ontario indigenous community.

Much like Attawapiskat, Kashechewan has been in the news for having suicide rates that are among the highest in the country. So, after Shimo's book was published last year, the reserve's chief invited her for community consultations on how it could be used to inspire the population and make life better.

That's how Paddling with the Cree was born.

With the goal of helping Kashechewan youth get in touch with their traditions and culture, the initiative organizes annual excursions through which young people canoe along Albany River past First Nations gravesites.

About 20 kids participated in the inaugural trip last August, and the group is raising money for next year's edition.

While part of the current disconnect with nature can be attributed to a lack of means — like access to Ski-doos and boats — it's mainly a legacy of the residential school system. The Indian Act forced indigenous people to be locked in their communities in order to benefit from social assistance and bush lifestyle was regarded as "evil," Shimo said.

"I think that's where the road to reconciliation has to start from," she said. "Nature has a big impact on people's well-being, and we have to make sure they have full access to it."

Members of the Kashechewan First Nation set out on their first Paddling with the Cree trip in August, travelling along the Albany River from Kashechewan to Mammamattawa.
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DAY BOXING

#METROARTSCHALLENGE

A look back at a beautiful year

Our readers have amazed and inspired us with their art these past months. In June, the #MetroArtsChallenge began as a humble haiku contest, but it blossomed into so much more. Here's to your best work of 2016, and a call for your artsy ideas for the year to come. GENNA BUCK/METRO

CAPTION CONTEST

I said 'a baby dog,' not baby Doug.
- Joon Baik

STICKY-NOTE ART

@Hemeterio

PUMPKINS

Fedy Sciori

POETRY

HAIKU
A flock of birds fly
to the sound of the trolley.
A live performance.
— Gu Zhen Zhen

Six-word stories
Thunder not bombs. Life in Toronto.
— Gail Biceroglu

Condo explosion: Thousands feared too poor.
— Tom Legge

ACROSTIC
Weather keeps me
Indoors
Never
Trusting
Environmental
Risks
—Sara Imrie

TWO-LINE RHYMES
People are great, the poets are witty,
Welcome to the 6, this is my city.
— Jerusha Alvares

I'm alone in Toronto
with no one to run to
— Yefan Tang

Different, though our values align
Is a sign you're in a Toronto state of mind
— Joseph Dolo

DEFACE THE PAPER

Natasha Khaikin

MEMORIES OF YOUR CITY

Eliza Figiel

YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE

We need your idea for a future Metro Arts Challenge. It has to be quick, doable with readily available materials, and printable. Bonus points for Toronto theme. The best idea will be the first challenge of the new year! **Email genna.buck@metronews.ca with "arts challenge" in the subject line, or tweet with the hashtag #MetroArtsChallenge.**

POP CULTURE

Magazine gives black girls the spotlight they deserve

Some of the contributors to the first issue of Black Girl's Magazine, which launched Dec. 10. KIM ZARZOUR/METROLAND MEDIA

Kim Zarzour
Metroland Media

In a world where pop culture rules, black girls are almost invisible.

That's what prompted the launch of Black Girl's Magazine — created by black girls, aimed at young female readers.

Annette Bazira-Okafor is the driving force behind the new publication.

She was doing research for her post-doctoral studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education when she discovered that "in a world where corporate media, films, television programs, music genres and magazines aggressively target kids and teens, black girls remain indiscernible and underserved."

At the same time, black girls are deeply immersed in pop culture, said Bazira-Okafor, who has a nine-year-old daughter.

"They consume it, they adore it and they live it."

She's been working on the magazine with a group of young girls from York Region, Brampton and Scarborough for the past few months, meeting regularly at her house in Vaughan to come up with stories covering everything from politics to travel.

Two editions have been published so far and are available at library branches in Toronto, Vaughan and Richmond Hill.

Itah Sadu has also promised to start stocking the magazine at her downtown Toronto book store, A Different Booklist.

For Uchechi Esonwanne, 9, one of the magazine's contributors, the best part is the opportunity to hang out and listen to other black girls' opinions.

"Usually the magazines we see are just white people," she added.

SUBSCRIPTION

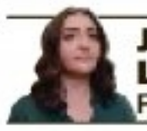
Along with organizing fundraisers to keep the effort going, the group behind Black Girl's Magazine is selling individual subscriptions.

Details are available at blackgirlsmagazine.ca

Hoping to Make it Merry nationwide

SPREADING CHEER

Campaign gives Christmas cards to homeless



Josie Lukey
For Metro | Calgary

Barb Marshall is the creator of Make it Merry, a campaign where people are invited to handwrite Christmas cards for the homeless. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

It's Barb Marshall's favourite time of year.

No, it's not exactly celebrating Christmas — it's delivering more than 2,500 handwritten Christmas cards to Calgary's homeless.

As creator of Make It Merry, a campaign where individuals are invited to handwrite Christmas cards for delivery to three Calgary homeless shelters, Marshall said the generosity of Calgarians and individuals from across the globe is why the campaign exceeded their original goal of 2,100 cards.

"It's crazy — crazy in a good way of course, but amazing," said Marshall. "We've had cards come as far as Korea, Turkey, several from the U.S. and all across Canada." Now, Marshall said she's calling up other agencies in the city to see if she can give them cards.

Last year, the organization only had a goal of 80 cards — they ended up receiving more than 1,200. Next year, Marshall said she wants to go nationwide with Make It Merry, hoping to set up pilot projects in cities with homeless populations.

"The beauty of Make It Merry is that it's not only completely meaningful to give a handwritten Christmas card, but it's practically very feasible for anybody of any age, it's the cost of a stamp, if that," said Marshall.

Marshall said the campaign breaks down stereotypes and builds relationships between two strangers.

GOOD NEWS DIGEST

Positive stories from around the nation

B.C. teen parents learn art of the lullaby

On their last day of school before the holidays, Rena Nadeau and Jordan Baptiste held their 10-month-old son Kaesen as a piano played through a classroom stereo.

"Know your Dada loves you, know your Dada needs you," a voice intoned soothingly. Baptiste, 17, wrote the lullaby to help get his son to sleep at night. But he said that he also hoped to change the way people see teen dads like him.

The lullabies are the result of song-writing sessions brought to their classroom by Andrea Unrau, a faculty member at the Sarah McLachlan School of Music, which also donated a keyboard and stereo.

DAVID P. BALL/METRO VANCOUVER

Roger Steele has been driving Edmonton buses for 35 years, helping those in need with a cup of java. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Bus driver's good deeds don't go unnoticed

Edmonton Transit bus driver Roger Steele began to cry after reading the first line of a Christmas card he received from a mother of a young commuter.

"My son has mentioned you're so awesome and have been picking up the kids walking to school in the extremely cold temperatures," the card read. "Your kindness has not gone unnoticed ... Merry Christmas!"

Earlier in December, while driving the No. 10, 11 and 162, Steele supplied transit customers with hot Tim Horton's coffees and donuts. The temperature was -20C and he was celebrating his 35-year anniversary as a driver. "It doesn't cost much," he said.

JEREMY SIMES/METRO EDMONTON

Halifax wishes a Merry Christmas to Jeanette

The hand-written note on the beautiful purple orchids said it all.

"Merry Christmas Jeanette, from someone who cares."

The story of an 85-year-old Halifax woman being punched and dragged from her home in a scary attack Tuesday night angered many in Halifax, and moved some to want to help.

Metro received several requests from people wanting to send gifts and flowers to Jeanette MacDonald. Metro asked those wanting to deliver a thoughtful gesture to drop it off to us Thursday morning and we'd take it to her. MacDonald was very appreciative. PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX

GLOBAL DIGEST

SYRIA

Battle for Aleppo ends

The Syrian government took full control of Aleppo on Thursday for the first time in four years after the last opposition fighters and civilians were bused out of war-ravaged eastern districts.

The evacuations ended a brutal chapter in Syria's nearly six-year civil war, allowing President Bashar Assad to regain full authority over the country's largest city and former commercial powerhouse. It marked his most significant victory since an uprising against his family's four-decade rule began in 2011.

The announcement was made via an army statement broadcast on Syrian state TV shortly after the last four buses carrying fighters left through the Ramousseh crossing.

"Thanks to the blood of our heroic martyrs, the heroic deeds and sacrifices of our armed forces and the allied forces, and the steadfastness of our people, the General Command of the Army and the Armed Forces announces the return of security and stability to Aleppo," an army general said in the statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ITALY

Verona's 'heart' returned

Seventeen masterpieces valued at 17 million euros ($17.7 million US) were returned to Italy from Ukraine on Wednesday after being stolen by armed robbers from a Verona art museum last year.

Italian Culture Minister Dario Franceschini, who travelled to Kiev to retrieve the paintings — which included works by Rubens, Tintoretto and Mantegna — said the possibility of ever recovering them once seem remote.

"It's an important day, because the works are all returning to Verona intact," Franceschini said. "It was an ugly story that became a beautiful story."

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko handed over the paintings to Franceschini in a ceremony in Kiev, saying "the theft of masterpiece paintings is akin to stealing part of the city's heart."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Christmas-themed campaign sign during a rally in Orlando, Fla. with President-elect Donald Trump on Dec. 16. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Double the data, plus get our Smartphone $45 LTE plan for only $40 a month.

$45
$40 PER MONTH
FOR 12 MONTHS.

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Offer ends December 26th
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Happiness in the time of Trump

Despite the real and metaphorical darkness, you can find joy in lovers, friends, neighbours, strangers and more

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

You can't say there wasn't magic, of a kind, in 2016.

Despite no applicable experience, a legacy of bankruptcy, ignorance and even hostility towards the U.S. constitution, a campaign built on lies and ego, and uttering the word "pussy," Donald Trump will be the next U.S. president.

If he's sniffing anything, it's gotta be pixie dust. But his powers, let's call them, have their limits.

Despite so-called post-Trump disorder, it's not the case that Trump can drain the entire country of joy. Despite the real and metaphorical darkness of the hour, you can, in fact, be happy in America.

It's perhaps easiest in a city like New Orleans, where a convivial outlook is practically required. Nothing stops les bon temps from rolling.

And it's not because the city has a whole lot to celebrate, from certain perspectives. To name just a few: Thirty-nine per cent of children here live in poverty. The gap in prosperity between black and white residents has widened by 37 per cent since Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

But perhaps that's part of it. Perhaps the reality of many lives here requires more joy, demands that you dance down the street on Sunday, rain or shine, in a second line parade.

I see the lesson this way: Why not do what you can, everything you can, to love this life?

It's not the same thing as denial. I'm a true Trump skeptic. But simply hating Trump and all that he stands for will do little to improve the chances of 2017. It's emotionally alluring political retail therapy, and utterly useless. Considering these purely bleak times is just another failure of imagination, and we've had quite enough of that for one year. It's also an insult to all people who have and are suffering, and yet cultivate pleasure in life.

In New Orleans, the first and best source of happiness is one another, lovers, friends, neighbours, strangers, meaningful relationships of any shape built on decency, kindness, and caring. Bask in them. Snuggle them like an anti-Trump security blanket. Say "I love you" an obscene amount of times.

The second best source of happiness, which New Orleans also has no shortage of, is meaningful work. Not necessarily your job, though it could be that. But something you do, some way you contribute to your community or country or world. Trump's election has sparked a wave of left-wing activist sentiment and unprecedented support for institutions like Planned Parenthood and the New York Times. It's reminded us that progress is earned. That every right we enjoy was fought and paid for. And that we need to work together.

I'll take my cue, in part, from Samantha Bee, who recently sat down with, of all people, Glenn Beck.

"It's all of us, against Trumpism," she implored.

"I agree," Beck said. "We tear each other apart and we don't see the human on the other side."

And then they held hands. That, my friends, is magic, too.

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Weekend, December 23-25, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE RULES: HOLIDAY MEALS

In these troubled times, it's only polite to fight the good fight at your next festive family dinner — as long as you keep it clean.

It's been a crazy year, with the election in the U.S. and an upsurge of extremist declamations in Canada dividing many of us along class, race, economic and gender lines.

In spite of these differences, however, I believe in my heart of hearts that most of us, wherever we stand on the issues, ultimately want to come together. Granted, this will require a heroic amount of listening, humility and empathy, and I'll be the first to admit that those qualities don't always come easy.

Further complicating things is that proper etiquette doesn't always mean keeping your mouth shut.

It's all well and fine to smooth things over at a holiday dinner when someone spills gravy or passes gas during the meal. But the truly well-mannered person will never stay silent when others promote false or hateful ideas in public or private.

This doesn't mean you get to yell and scream, or throw punches, or deliberately spill the gravy over a disagreeable relative's head.

It does mean you have a moral imperative to speak up and address problematic statements if they arise. For example, it's perfectly polite to say things like:

"Those numbers are false."

"That story is false."

"That statement is homophobic/sexist/racist."

"That kind of language is unacceptable."

"We listened to you express your views, and I'd ask that you now listen to me/him/her with the same courtesy."

At this point, the argument will take one of two paths. The first possibility is that one of the arguers will prove themselves to be incapable of mutually respectful discourse and dissolve into a toxic puddle of insults and wilful ignorance. So be it. Once you have fulfilled the moral imperative of calling them out on blatant falsehoods and un-Canadian slurs against marginalized groups, there's no point in further engagement. You may withdraw from the ring, and even walk away from the table if they keep punching below the belt.

Now, you might ask: why bother calling them out at all, if you know they're going to react this way? Obviously, such a dirty fighter will never change their game. But it's important to make them aware their position isn't inviolable. If everyone is silent when people tell lies and sling slurs, it reinforces the idea all round that such behaviour is acceptable.

Ideally, the dinner-table fracas will take the second path: a fair fight where all parties are willing to listen to one another, and maybe even willing to keep an open mind about their own position.

In this case, you might want to say something like: "I'm genuinely curious about where your views come from, and why you believe the things you're saying. What is it you're most worried about, or afraid of?" You should also consider your own answer to this question.

By the time it's all over, assuming everyone is still at the table, no one is in tears and there's more food inside all of you than on the walls, you might want to indulge in a little speechifying.

We are so lucky in Canada. Most of us live with such privilege — we're safe from war, hunger, poverty. We have health care and a social safety net. Sure, we have problems, like any other society. But overall we're justifiably envied by the rest of the world for our tolerance of others, our good manners, our beautiful country and our peaceful, well-ordered, proudly multicultural communities.

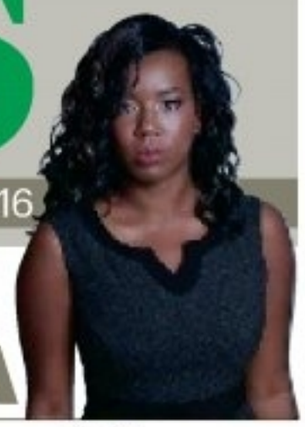
We've achieved more here than any other civilization in history, but it's fragile. To preserve everything that's precious, we need to find a way to work together, to allay the fears, to stop anyone from feeling marginalized or exploited or unheard.

The fact is, we have so much more in common than the prejudices that divide us.

Happy holidays, from everyone at Metro.

Need advice? Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

VICKY MOCHAMA



A Christmas tradition like no other: Catharsis by way of jigsaw puzzle

My father doesn't ask his family for much.

He really likes 1,000-piece puzzles, and each year we gather around to help. Instead of presents, we give each other tiny pieces of stress that "look like the corner of that air balloon or maybe that one instead."

This quaint family Christmas scene is actually a seething mess of emotions. It's not Christmas until someone has accused my mother of sabotaging the family by moving the puzzle. And it's not confined to our family. If you walk through our house at any point during the holidays, you will get dragged into the Puzzle Problem. The cost of a free meal and good company at Casa Mochama is at least one hour bent over a puzzle.

My father, a statistician, isn't excited by much — besides his kids (50 per cent of us, 50 per cent of the time) and complex math jokes (see above). He is so ecstatic over this year's puzzle that he sent a warning text. When I ask one of my sisters how she feels her reply is "Noooooo!"

"Because last year Tyler and I couldn't get to sleep because we had to keep going." Last Christmas, she and Tyler were engaged. Puzzle vortex aside, he still said, "I do."

"Puzzles will ruin my marriage," my sister complains.

This clearly isn't my dad's gambit at family unity. Even if you wake up early when all through the house not a person is stirring, you'd better assemble a corner or you risk being kicked out of the house. Once you're conscripted to serve in the Puzzle Platoon, there is no escape. When it comes to puzzle completion, my father is a drill sergeant.

Yet the whole miserable slog is kind of useful.

Instead of a manufactured atmosphere of joy (unless your family are opera singers, no one enjoys carolling together), it is much healthier to go through the stages of grief with family and friends.

We start with the denial that we're going to get caught up in it. Not this year, man, not me. I'm here to read books and eat my weight in stuffing. Soon after, anger descends: In different and unprintable ways, almost everyone expresses that "this is a really stupid idea."

Next, bargaining. If only we'd picked the 500-piece puzzle about a farm, we could eat dinner before midnight. Then depression sets in: Life itself is a puzzle with an infinite number of pieces and, thus, nothing can be solved. The wine comes out.

Finally, acceptance. It is only a puzzle, not the end of the world. But if the apocalypse is nigh, what better group of people to be toiling over a puzzle with?

A puzzle might one day break our family apart, but we're emotionally ready for it.

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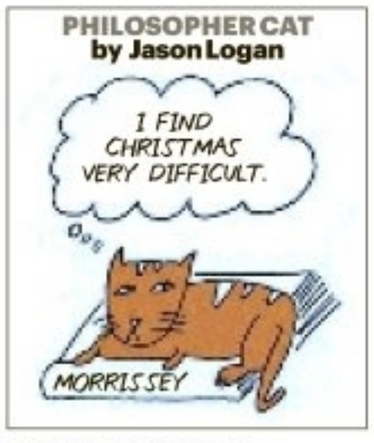

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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Stone's risks paying off in Oscar buzz

FILM

Evolving actress moved to L.A. when she was 15

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

La La Land may present a fantasized version of Hollywood, but the big-screen musical isn't that far-fetched to star Emma Stone.

After all, having moved to Tinseltown when she was just a teenager, Stone's own rise in movies mirrors that of her character in the rom-com about an aspiring actress and a jazz musician.

"I think I was into risks more than I thought," related Stone to the character. "Moving at 15 to L.A., it didn't feel risky at the time; it felt like this is the only option."

Since those naïve days, Stone has succeeded to become a star with such hits as The Help and 2014's Birdman (which earned her an Oscar nomination). She may have survived the oppressive auditions that marked her struggle in showbiz (many that are fictionalized in La La Land), but Stone has learned much from those early gambles.

"Taking risks has become much more interesting as I've grown older," said Stone, explaining that she no longer defines career success through popularity and instead considers projects in how she'll evolve. "The only time I've ever felt like I grew was from something really risky I didn't think I could do, or from failure. When things go swimmingly or you do something you know you can do, it doesn't really teach you all that much."

With La La Land, Stone's only familiarity was with co-star Ryan Gosling (having worked with him twice before), but the idea of taking on filmmaker Damien Chazelle's epic musical presented a new challenge.

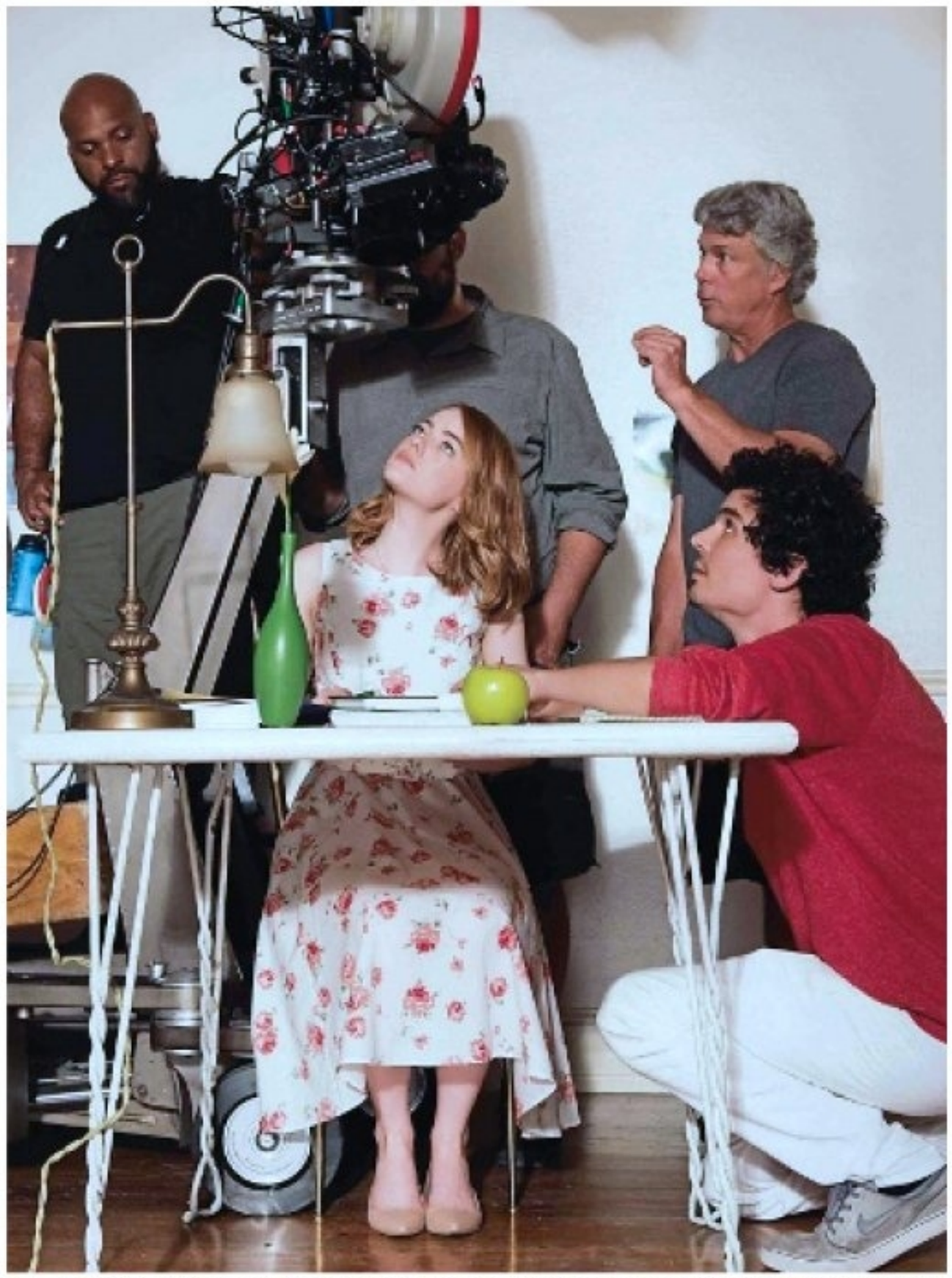
> **There were sometimes really funky people that you deal with but at least they're giving you the time of day**
>
> Emma Stone on her early auditions

"He was so patient and talked me through the whole thing," laughed Stone of her anxious introduction to the movie. "It was exciting from the very beginning — the idea of an original musical that takes place in modern day but feels like an old MGM Cinemascope (blockbuster)."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Passengers	★★
Sing	★★★
Assassin's Creed	★★★
La La Land	★★★★
Fences	★★★★
Why Him?	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT



Emma Stone says director Damien Chazelle, below right, talked her through difficult shoots in the musical La La Land, which opens Christmas Day. CONTRIBUTED

NOW PLAYING Check theatre directories for locations and showtimes

MOVIE LISTINGS

DOWNTOWN

Carlton Cinema Theatre
20 Carlton St., 416-494-9371
Arrival Fri 6:40-9:15 Sat 6:40 Sun-Wed 6:40-9:15 Thu 9:15 **Assassin's Creed** Fri 1:05-3:45-6:35-9:05 Sat 1:05-3:45-6:35 Sun 3:45-6:35-9:05 Mon-Thu 1:05-3:45-6:35-9:05 **Collateral Beauty** Fri 1:35-4-6:30-9 Sat 1:35-4-6:30 Sun 4-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 1:35-4-6:30-9 Moana Fri-Sat 1:30-4:05 Sun 4:05 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:05 **Passengers** Fri 1:10-3:55-6:35-9:10 Sat 1:10-3:55-6:35 Sun 3:55-6:35-9:10 Mon-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:35-9:10 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri 1-1:15-3:50-4:05-6:45-7-9:30-9:45 Sat 1-1:15-3:50-4:05-6:45-7 Sun 3:50-4:05-6:45-7-9:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 1-1:15-3:50-4:05-6:45-7-9:30-9:45 **Sing Fri 1:20-4-6:40-9:25 Sat 1:20-4-6:**40 Sun 4-6:40-9:25 Mon-Thu 1:20-4-6:40-9:25 **Things to Come Fri 1:40-4:15-6:55-9:25 Sat 1:40-4**:15-6:55 Sun 4:15-6:55-9:25 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:15-6:55-9:25 **Why Him?** Fri-Sat 1:25 Sun-Thu 9:20 Fri-Thu 4:10 Fri-Thu 6:50 Fri 9:20 Mon-Thu 1:25

Scotiabank Theatre
259 Richmond 416-368-5600
Assassin's Creed Fri-Thu 11-1:45-4:30-7:15-10;3D Fri 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 Sat 11:45-2:30-5:30-8:15-11 Sun 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 Mon-Tue 12-3-5:45-8:30-11:20 Wed-Thu 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 **Collateral Beauty** Fri-Thu 10:15-12:45-3:15-5:50-8:20-10:50 **Doctor Strange** Fri-Thu 10:10-7:30; 3D Fri-Thu 2-4:45-10:40 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri-Thu 10:30-1:10-1:50-4:10-4:50-8-10:15-11; 3D Fri-Thu 11-7:35 **Nocturnal Animals** Fri-Thu 11:50-2:50-5:40-8:25-11:15 **Office Christmas Party** Fri-Thu 12:30-3:15-6-8:40-11:15 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri-Thu 11:40-12:10-3:20-6-6:30-9:40; IMAX Fri-Thu 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40; 3D Fri-Thu 11-12:40-2:10-2:50-3:50-5:20-7-8:40-9:10-10:10 Fri-Thu 10:30-1:40-4:50-8-11:10

Market Square
80 Front St., 416-494-9371
Collateral Beauty Fri 1:05-3:35-6:35-9:05 Sat 1:05-3:35-6:35 Sun 3:35-6:35-9:05 Mon-Thu 1:05-3:35-6:35-9:05 **Passengers Fri 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:45 Sat 1**2:55-3:55-6:55 Sun 3:55-6:55-9:45 Mon-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:45 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:45-7-9:35-9:55 Sat 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:45-7 Sun 3:40-4-6:45-7-9:35-9:55 Mon-Thu 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:45-7-9:35-9:55 **Sing** Fri 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10 Sat 12:50-3:30-6:30 Sun 3:30-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10 **Why Him?** Fri-Sat 1:10 Sun-Thu 9:25 Fri-Thu 3:45 Fri-Thu 6:40 Fri 9:25 Mon-Thu 1:10

Varsity
55 Bloor St. W., 416-961-6304
Allied Fri 1:20-4:25-7:15-10:10 Sat 1:20 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri-Thu 3:40; 3D Fri-Thu 12:35-6:50-10:05 Fri 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:30 **Fences** Sat 5-8:10 Sun-Thu 10:40-12:15-3:35-7:05-10:25 **Hidden Figures** Sat 4:40-7:35-10:30 Sun-Thu 10:50-1:45-4:40-7:35-10:30 Sat 4-7-10 Sun-Thu 1-4-7-10 **Jackie** Fri 1:50-4:55-7:40-10:30 Sat 11:30-2 Sun-Thu 10:10-1:50-4:55-7:40-10:25 Fri 1-4-7-10 Sat 12:20-3:20-6:30-9 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 **La La Land** Sun-Thu 9:55-12:55-4:10-7:10-10:20 Sun-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 **Lion Fri** 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15 Sat 10:30-1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15 Sun-Thu 10:15-1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15 Fri 12:15-3-6-9 Sat 12:50 **Manchester by the Sea** Fri 12:10-12:50-3:20-4-6:40-7:20-10-10:30 Sat 10:30-12-12:40-3:20-4-6:40-7:20-10-10:30 Sun-Thu 10-12:40-4-7:20-10:30 Fri 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat 11:50-2:50-6-9:30 Sun-Thu 11:50-2:50-5:55-9 **Moonlight** Fri 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40 Sat 10:30-1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40 Sun-Thu 10-1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40 **Nocturnal Animals** Fri 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:25 Sat 10:35-1:20-4:20-7:25-10:25

Yonge & Dundas 24
10 Dundas St. 416-977-2642
Allied Fri-Sat 11:10-2:30-6:10-9:15 **Andre Rieu: Christmas With Andre** Fri 3 Sat 8:20 Sun 3 **Arrival** Fri-Sat 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10:35 Sun-Thu 11:10-2:30-6:10-9:15 **The Autopsy of Jane Doe** Tue 9 Wed 10:15 Thu 8:50 **Bolshoi Ballet: The Nutcracker (2016)** Sat 5:15 **Dangal** Fri-Thu 11:35-3-6:30-10:10 **Doctor Who: The Return of Doctor Mysterio** Mon 7-9:30 Tue 6:40 Wed 11-4:30 Thu 6:40 **Fences** Sat 6-9:30 Sun-Thu 11:10-2:30-6-9:20 **It's a Wonderful Life** Fri 6:30-9:45 Sat 11-11 Sun 12-6:30-9:45 Mon 12 **Jackie** Fri-Thu 11:30-2:20-5:10-8:10-10:50 **La La Land** Sun-Thu 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10:35 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:30-11 Mon-Thu 12:40-4-7:25-10:45 **Lion** Fri-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:35-10:45 **London Road** Fri 12 Tue 3:45 Thu 12 **Manchester by the Sea** Fri-Sat 12:10-3:50-7:25-10:45 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:25-10:45 **Moana** Fri 11:50-2:40-5:20-8-10:30 Sat 11:50-2:40 Sun-Thu 4:10; 3D Fri-Sat 10:30-1:15-4:10-7-9:50 Sun-Thu 10:30-1:15-7-9:50 **National Theatre Live: War Horse - Encore** Wed 1 **Office Christmas Party** Fri 11:40-2:10-5:15-8:30-11:30 Sat 11:40-2:10-5:15-8:30-11:05 **Passengers** Fri-Thu 10:10-1-4-6:50-9:50; 3D Fri-Thu 11:20-2:10-5-7:50-10:55 Fri-Sat 1-4-7:25-10:10 Sun 1-3:50-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 12:25-3:10-6:20-9:15 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri-Sun 11:15-2:30-5:45-9 Mon-Thu 1-4:30-8-11:30;IMAX Fri-Thu 9:50-1-4:10-7:20-10:30; 3D Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:15-12-3:30-7-10:30 Fri-Thu 10:10-1:20-4:30-7:40-10:50 **Sing** Fri-Sat 11-1:45-4:30-7:15-10 Sun-Thu 10-11-1:45-4:30-7:15-10; 3D Fri-Thu 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 **The Sound of Music** Sat 1:40 Mon 3 Tue 12 Wed 6:30 Thu 3 **The Wasted Times** Fri-Thu 11:40-2:50-6:20-9:40 **Why Him?** Fri-Thu 9:50-10:50-12:50-1:55-3:40-4:40-6:40-7:45-9:30-10:35 Fri-Sat 12:30-3:10-6:20-9:30 Sun 11:45-3-6-9:30 Mon-Thu 12-2:40-5:35-8:20-11:10

MIDTOWN

Yonge-Eglinton Centre
2300 Yonge St., 416-544-1236
Assassin's Creed Fri 11:45-2:30-8:30 Sat 11:05-2-8 Sun-Thu 11:45-2:30-8:30; 3D Fri 5-10:50 Sat 5 Sun-Thu 5-10:50 **Collateral Beauty** Fri 11:40-2:20-5:20-8:10-10:45 Sat 11:40-2:20-4:55-7:45 **La La Land** Sun-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:10-10:20 Sun-Thu 12:30-4-7:30-11 **Office Christmas Party** Fri 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:15-10 Sat 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:15 Sun-Thu 12:30-3:25-6-8:40-11:15 Fri 12:30-4-7:30-11 Sat 12:30-4-7:30 **Passengers** Fri 5:40-11:15 Sat 5:10 Sun-Thu 5:40-11:15; 3D Fri-Thu 11:20-2:10-7:50 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7 Fri 1-4:30-8-11:30 Sat 1-4:30-8 Sun-Thu 1-4:30-8-11:30; 3D Fri 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10-10:40 Sat 10-1:10-4:20-7:30 Sun-Thu 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10-10:40 Fri 10:30-1:40-4:50-8-11:10 Sat 10:30-1:40-4:50-8 Sun-Thu 10:30-1:40-4:50-8-11:10 Fri 12-3:30-7-10:30 Sat 12-3:30-7 Sun-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30 **Sing** Fri 5:30 Sat 5:20 Sun-Thu 10:05-5:30; 3D Fri 12-2:45-8:15-11 Sat 12-2:45-8 Sun-Thu 12-2:45-8:15-11 **Why Him?** Fri 11-1:55-4:40-7:40-10:30 Sat 11-1:55-4:40-7:40 Sun-Thu 11-1:55-4:40-7:40-10:30

NORTH YORK

Empress Walk
5095 Yonge St., 416-223-9550
Assassin's Creed Fri-Sat 1:10-7:05 Sun-Thu 1:20-7:40; 3D Fri 4:20-10:20 Sat 4:20 Sun-Thu 3:30-9:40 **Collateral Beauty** Fri 12:40-3-5:30-8:10-10:40 Sat 12:40-3-5:30-8 Sun-Thu 3-5:30-8-10:40 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri-Sat 3:20 Sun-Thu 11:50; 3D Fri 12:10-6:30-9:40 Sat 12:10-6:30 **La La Land** Sun-Thu 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:15 **Lion** Sun-Thu 1:10-4:25-7:30-10:25 **Manchester by the Sea** Fri 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Sat 12:20-3:30-6:40 Sun-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:50 **Moana** Fri 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:25 Sat 1:30-4:30-7:40 **Passengers** Fri 4-10:10 Sat 4 Sun-Thu 4:35-10:35; 3D Fri-Sat 1:20-7:30 Sun-Thu 12:20-6:40 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri 12-3:10-6:20-9:30 Sat 12-3:10-6:20 Sun-Thu 12-3:10-6:20-9:30; IMAX Fri 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Sat 1-4:10-7:20 Sun-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 ; 3D Fri 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Sat 12:30-3:40-6:50 Sun-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 **Sing** Fri-Sat 5:20 Sun-Thu 5:10; 3D Fri 12-2:40-8-10:40 Sat 12-2:40-7:55 Sun-Thu 11:45-2:30-7:50-10:40

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3401 Dufferin St., 416-444-3456
Assassin's Creed Fri-Thu 5:20; 3D Fri 11:40-2:30-8:10-11:05 Sat 11:40-2:30-8:10 Sun-Thu 11:40-2:30-8:10-11:05 **Collateral Beauty** Fri 11-1:30-7:20-10 Sat 11-1:30-7:20 Sun-Thu 11-1:30-7:20-10 **Doctor Strange** 3D Fri 10:20 Sun-Thu 10:20 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri-Thu 4 **Moana** Fri-Thu 4:10; 3D Fri 10:30-1:20-7:10 Sat-Thu 10:20-1:20-7:10 **Office Christmas Party** Fri 12:15-3-5:40-8:20-10:55 Sat 12:15-3-5:40-8:20 Sun-Thu 12:15-3-5:40-8:20-10:55 **Passengers** Fri-Thu 5:05; 3D Fri 11:15-2:10-7:50-10:50 Sat 11:15-2:10-7:50 Sun-Thu 11:15-2:10-7:50-10:50 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri 9:40-12:40-3:50-7 Sat-Thu 12:40-3:50-7; 3D Fri 10:10 Sat 10:30-1:40-4:50-8 Sun-Thu 10:10 Fri 10:30-1:40-4:50-8-11:10 Sat 10-1:10-4:20-7:30 Sun-Thu 10:30-1:40-4:50-8-11:10 Fri 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Sun-Thu 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 **Sing** Fri-Thu 5:30; 3D Fri 12-2:45-8:15-11 Sat 12-2:45-8:15 Sun-Thu 12-2:45-8:15-11 **Why Him?** Fri 10:50-1:50-4:40-7:40-10:30 Sat 10:50-1:50-4:40-7:40 Sun-Thu 10:50-1:50-4:40-7:40-10:30

Silvercity Fairview 1800 Sheppard Ave., 416-644-7746
Assassin's Creed Fri 4:55 Sat 1:45 Sun 11:10-4:50 Mon-Thu 4:55; 3D Fri 2:05-7:50-10:50 Sat 11-4:40-7:40 Sun 2-7:45-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:05-7:50-10:50 **Collateral Beauty** Fri 3:05-8:30-10:55 Sat 2-7:45 Sun 3:05-8:35-11 Mon-Thu 3:05-8:30-10:55 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri 5:25 Sat 4:45 Sun 5:30 Mon-Thu 5:25 **It's a Wonderful Life** Sat 11 **Moana** Fri 11-1:40-4:25-7:10 Sat 11-1:40-4:25 Sun 11-1:40-4:25-7:10 Mon-Thu 10:45-1:40-4:25-7:10 **Office Christmas Party** Fri 10 Sat 7:20 Sun-Thu 10 **Passengers** Fri 11-4:20 Sat 1:55 Sun 11-4:35 Mon-Thu 10:50-4:20; 3D Fri 1:40-7:30-10:30 Sat 11-4:45-7:45 Sun 1:45-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:40-7:30-10:30 Rogue One: A Star Wars Story Fri 11-12:30-3:35-6:45 Sat 12:25-3:35-6:45 Sun 12:20-3:35-6:45 Mon 11-12:30-3:35-6:45 Tue-Thu 11-12:25-3:35-6:45; 3D Fri 12:55-4:05-7:15-9:55-10:25 Sat 12:55-4:05-7:15 Sun-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:15-9:55-10:25 Fri 1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 Sat 1:25-4:35-7:45 Sun 1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 Mon 10:15-1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 Tue 10:30-1:25-4:40-7:45-10:55 Wed-Thu 10:30-1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 **Sing** Fri 11-12:30-4:15 Sat 11-4:25 Sun 11-12:35-4:15 Mon-Thu 11-12:30-4:15; 3D Fri 1:35-7-10 Sat 1:40-7:25 Sun-Thu 1:35-7-10 **Why Him?** Fri 11:20-2:10-5-8-10:40 Sat 11-1:50-4:40-7:40 Sun-Thu 11:20-2:10-5-8-10:40

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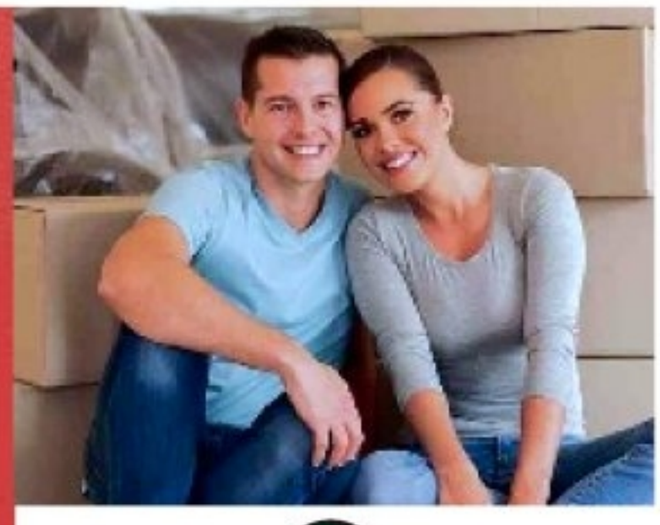

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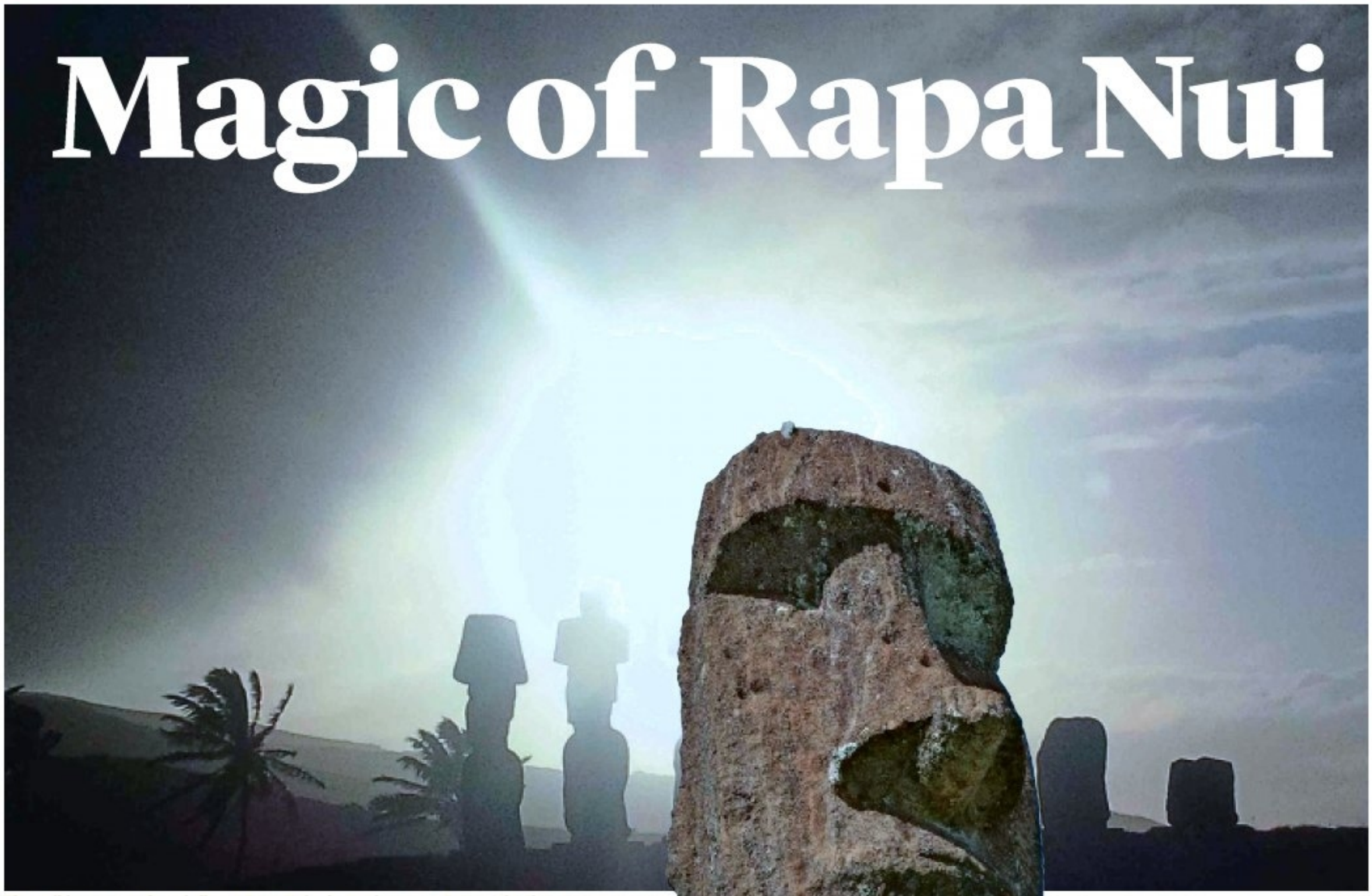
Magic of Rapa Nui



The striking statues found all over Rapa Nui — better known as Easter Island to westerners — are nine metres high, weigh 14 tons, and are shrouded in mystery. AURÉLIE RESCH/FOR METRO; ISTOCK

PACIFIC

Easter Island's statues hold key to its secrets

Aurélie Resch
For Metro Canada

I am four. I stare unblinkingly at the candle I just made with my mother. It is an impressive, stern face with a long nose and a big forehead.

"These statues can be found on Easter Island, far away from here in the middle of the Pacific Ocean," my mother tells me. I never lit the candle. I stared at it. For a long, long time.

Forty years later, I gaze at the Moaïs lying down on the grass.

I'm in the "Pacific's navel" on a tiny island located 3,700 kilometres from Chile and 4,000 km from Tahiti — Rapa Nui for natives, Easter Island for westerners, and best known for its monolithic sculptures that first appeared here between the years 1,250 to 1,500.

Tavi, my guide at Explora and a native from the island, takes me on hikes every day to meet these impressive statues.

"Rapa Nui is all about mystery and legends," he says.

He explains that the nine-metre high heads (weighing some 14 tons) were sculpted out of the volcanic rock from the Rano Raraku volcano we just climbed. They were moved to villages and erected turning their back on the ocean. Moaïs represented the souls of brave warriors, looking after their family and their people.

"The ones lying down the ground fell during the transport. They couldn't be erected," Tavi says. "They needed to be perfect for that."

I look at the abandoned, expressionless faces and I somehow feel sad. They never made it.

Tavi tells me about the birdmen legend. Natives used to dive from a little rock we can see in a distance. They swam and fought with sharks before they reached the little rock where sacred birds laid their eggs.

They would bring one back up the cliff to the Make-make god and then be appointed chief of their tribe.

I didn't dive from the cliff into the ocean, but I did swim with sea turtles, who appear on hieroglyphs scattered on the island.

They seem to swim to the shore where the sentinels are keeping the island's secrets.

IF YOU GO

Getting there
Copa Airlines takes you from Canada to Chile via Panama. Latam takes you from Santiago, Chile to Rapa Nui.

Where to stay
Explora Rapa Nui is a luxury ecolodge nested in the land. Explora offers many excursions through the islands conducted by native knowledgeable guides.

metro SPORTS

Toronto FC forward Jozy Altidore has won the U.S. Player of the Year Award for the second time

Canada looks to set pace with its speed and grit

WORLD JUNIORS

Hosts have not allowed a goal in first two exhibition tilts

16

The number of times Canada has won the event since its inception in 1977.

Playing on home ice with a team built for speed and tenacity could be a winning combination for Canada at the world junior hockey championship.

While Canada is missing teenage stars like Connor McDavid and Mitch Marner, who have already graduated to the National Hockey League, their closest rivals will also be without top talent at the tournament, which runs from Monday to Jan. 5 in Toronto and Montreal.

Coach Dominique Ducharme brings a team four lines deep in scoring ability with a decent defence and what they expect will be better goaltending with Carter Hart and Connor Ingram than the Canadian side that was eliminated by Finland in the quarter-finals of last year's world juniors in Helsinki.

Canada has five players back from that team: forwards Dylan Strome, Julien Gauthier, Mitchell Stephens and Mathew Barzal and defenceman Thomas Chabot. Forwards like Quebec league goals leader Mathieu Joseph, 2016 third-overall draft NHL pick Pierre-Luc Dubois, Ontario Hockey League scoring ace Taylor Raddysh and University of North Dakota digger Tyson Jost should give them four lines that can provide offence.

"Our pace and our skill and how hard we work, we put those three things together and it really works well," Jost said this week. "We're also a tight group off the ice and that benefits us on the ice.

"One thing you really need in a short competition is for everyone to be close off the ice. You can see that in our dressing room."

Canada will be the favourite on the NHL-sized rinks at home, where it won two years ago when the event was also held in Toronto and Montreal. It was the only medal Canada has won in the last four world juniors, with the other three played on international-size ice in Europe.

The United States, learning that scoring ace and Vancouver Canucks prospect Brock Boeser will sit out with a wrist injury, should also be in the hunt along with Finland, Russia and Sweden.

Besides McDavid and Marner, Canadians who are eligible but weren't loaned for the tournament include defenceman Jakob Chychrun and forwards Travis Konecny, Anthony Beauvillier and Lawson Crouse.

The Americans are also missing Auston Matthews, Matt Tkachuk, Zach Werenski and Noah Hanifin, while Finland is without the top three scorers from last year's tournament — Patrik Laine, Jesse Puljujarvi and Sebastian Aho.

Even some top draft-eligible prospects like Canada's Nolan Patrick and American Casey Mittelstadt are out with injuries, but there are other 17-year-olds expected to go high in the 2017 draft to watch, such as Nico Hischier of Switzerland, Czech forward Martin Necas, Sweden's Elias Pettersson and nine young Finns including Eeli Tolvanen, Miro Heiskanen, Juuso Valimaki and Urho Vaakanainen.

There is also 16-year-old Swedish defenceman Rasmus Dahlin, who some see as the first overall draft pick in 2018.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Taylor Raddysh scores against Finland goaltender Veini Vehvilainen during exhibition action in Montreal on Monday. Canada won 5-0 and followed that up with another 5-0 win over the Czech Republic on Wednesday. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **We're coming together ... The chemistry's building and that's a good thing for this tournament.**
> Canada captain Dylan Strome

IN BRIEF

Warriors' Green gets early Christmas gift in baby boy

Draymond Green returned to the Bay Area on Thursday to welcome his new baby boy.

Draymond Jamal Green Jr. was born at 3:55 a.m. Thursday, the Warriors said, and his father was set to miss Golden State's game Thursday at Brooklyn. His status for Friday's matchup at Detroit and Sunday at Cleveland was still to be determined.

Green leads Golden State in rebounds (8.8), assists (7.2) and steals (2.3) while averaging 10.6 points. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Midfielder Johnson finds new home in Orlando

Free agent midfielder Will Johnson is leaving Toronto FC for Orlando City SC.

A source confirmed the deal with an announcement pending.

The 29-year-old Canadian international, who is a 10-year MLS veteran, has 27 goals and 20 assists in 212 regular-season MLS games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thompson wins ski cross World Cup tour

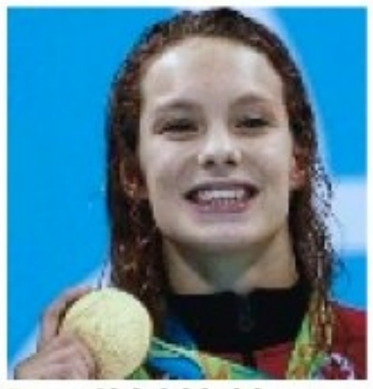
Marielle Thompson ended up as the overall winner of the Audi FIS Ski Cross World Cup Cross Alps Tour after a fourth-place finish in the final race of the series on Thursday.

The native of Whistler, B.C., won three of the tour's six races.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OLYMPICS

Canada to review funding 'to achieve even better results'



Penny Oleksiak led the Canadian charge in Brazil this past summer by winning four medals. GETTY IMAGES

Canada proved in 2016 it could compete with the world's top summer sport countries, equalling its best showing at a non-boycotted Summer Olympics with 22 medals at the Rio Games.

Four gold was the most for Canada at a Summer Olympics since the country won seven in 1992, and after falling short of the goal of a top-12 finish in the overall medal count in both 2008 and 2012, Canada finally cracked the top 10 in Brazil (10th).

Despite the success, the system that helped put Canadians on the podium is under scrutiny.

Canadian taxpayers are the largest investor in their high performance athletes to the tune of almost $200 million annually.

Own The Podium makes funding recommendations directing $70 million — about $6 million of it comes from the Canadian Olympic Committee — to sport federations whose athletes demonstrate medal potential.

The strategy is called "targeted excellence" and is defined as identifying "a subset of athletes and/or teams that have a high probability of attaining stated desired Olympic and Paralympic performance results, and to provide them with focused support and funding to attain those results."

> **The government of Canada's decision to deploy a targeted excellence approach has delivered in spades.**
> Own The Podium CEO Anne Merklinger

In other words, the money and resources are doled out based on the ability to produce medals.

The Department of Canadian Heritage, with Sport Canada under its umbrella, is currently reviewing targeted excellence among other aspects of the sport system.

The government decided it's time to look at whether the sport system is getting desired results affordably and if it is adapting to changing needs.

"Fourteen years ago we thought this was a good idea, this was the path and this was a cutting-edge approach to high-performance sport internationally," Minister of Sport Carla Qualtrough told The Canadian Press in 2016.

"So like any coach will tell you we need to keep reviewing the game plan. Medal performances say how well we've done under this particular plan, but maybe there's a different direction we need to go to achieve even better results next time."

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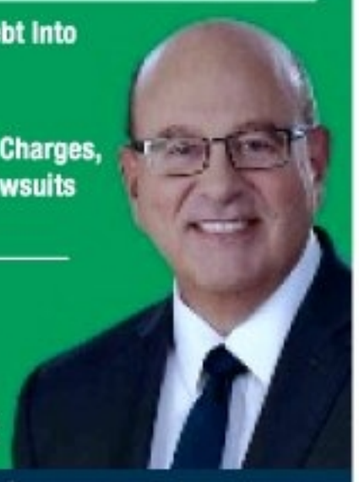

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Spicy Shakshuka

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This one-pan dinner is just the thing when you need a quick and easy way to dinner.

Ready in 40 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced quite fine
- 3 or 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- chili flakes (optional)
- 1 can (28 oz) whole tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- Salt and pepper
- 6 eggs
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta
- Handful of chopped basil or parsley

Directions

1. Heat oil in a high-sided frying pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and let them begin to brown. Add the paprika, cumin and a pinch of chili and stir. Let cook about 3 minutes.

2. Pour in tomatoes and tomato paste and gently break them up. Allow sauce to simmer 20 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

3. Spread sauce evenly across frying pan. Crack eggs over the sauce (I usually place five in a circle around the pan and one in the centre). Cook about 6 or 7 minutes.

4. Crumble feta and basil or parsley over the top. Shimmy a serving spoon under each egg to scoop out of the pan. Serve with crusty bread and some steamed vegetables.

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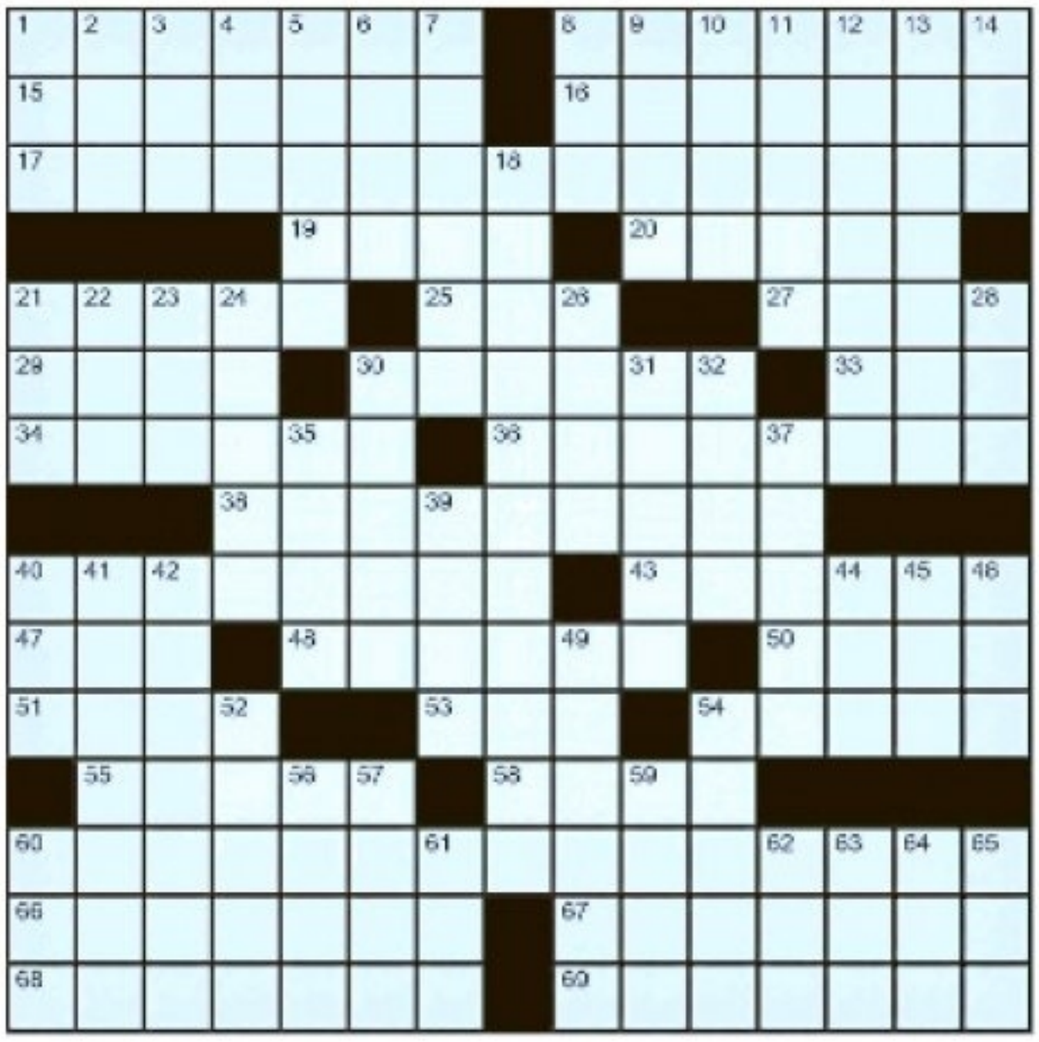
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Traditional spinning toy at Hanukkah
8. The Beatles: 2 wds.
15. Without exceptions: 2 wds.
16. Tiding up type
17. To-the-table feast ware: 2 wds.
19. Shakespeare King
20. "__ I care!"
21. Compassion
25. Mr. Danson
27. Smirch
29. 'Within'-meaning prefix
30. Saskatchewan export
33. SNL's Canadian creator's initials-sharers
34. Rock tour gig
36. Traditional toy gift: 2 wds.
38. Yuletide yummy: 2 wds.
40. Gift's version of a cake's cherry: 3 wds.
43. New Brunswick's provincial tree, __ Fir
47. 'Love' in JLo's 'Papi' song
48. Ms. Silverman's
50. Chad or Rob
51. Home bill, e.g.
53. "The Simpsons" storekeeper
54. "__ Hope" (Old soap opera)
55. Dome-shaped Buddhist shrine
58. Single-named fashion model
60. "Office Christmas Party" (2016) star: 2 wds.
66. __ of Aquitaine, "The Lion in Winter" (1968) character
67. Like really dry skin
68. James Joyce's Dublin-set 1922 novel
69. Bee participant

DOWN
1. Posh Spice's hubby ...his initials-sharers
2. Arctic explorer John
3. Be off
4. Bill [abbr.]
5. Lacy piece on furniture
6. -ette cousin
7. Smoothly, in music
8. Gladiator's 1150
9. Spanish beach 'waves'
10. Rocker Mr. Wentz
11. The __ ("Soap" family)
12. Playwright Eugene's family
13. Fragrant holiday gift
14. Jrs. dads
18. Roy Orbison Christmas song (which Willie Nelson wrote) that goes "Wrap your presents to your darling from you...": 2 wds.
21. Sea: French
22. Antacid brand
23. Dietary letters
24. Newfoundland comedy troupe that had a same-named CBC sketch series
26. Jeanne _'__
28. Alphabet trio
30. 'Five'-meaning prefix
31. Swedish cars
32. Susan Aglukark's "__ Na Ho (Celebration)"
35. Mr. Fleming's
37. Ms. Furtado
39. Literature: David Copperfield's first wife
40. Songstress Ms. Cantrell
41. Do better than the other realtors
42. Ms. Houston
44. "__ guy walks into..." (Classic joke intro)
45. Grass appendage
46. Not yous
49. Mankind members
52. Belonging to Rome's moon goddess
54. Marie Antoinette, par exemple
56. Fastened-to-clothing jewellery
57. "...friend or __?"
59. In-a-row letters
60. 'Game' in Gaspe
61. Initials-sharers of Oscar-winner Julia's actress niece
62. Roman sun deity
63. Poetic contraction
64. Flamenco exclamation!
65. Big Apple hockey team [acronym]

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Upsets and surprises with political, religious or racial issues are taking place right now, all around you. Fortunately, warm friendships are supportive.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Something unpredictable could affect a situation regarding inheritances, shared property, taxes or debt. Because this might happen, do your homework and get your ducks in a row

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Serious partnerships are undergoing sudden changes now. Tread carefully. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Know what you want.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Although you are working hard, you also are looking for ways to introduce reforms and improvements to your job. Something unexpected might occur to help you do this.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
For some time now, you have been wondering about future goals. Many of you will break out and surprise yourself by trying something different and new.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The stability you want to create at home might undergo a bit of a revolution. Just stay on course, but be ready to listen to new ideas and new ways of doing things.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Sudden changes to your job or your residence might be taking place. You have to stay flexible. After all, the rigid trees are the first to snap in a storm.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something unusual might affect your earnings at this time. It will be a change that ultimately might create more freedom for you.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You're full of unusual, revolutionary ideas right now. You want to do something different. You want to buck the system and carve out a new path for yourself.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something secretive and surprising is going on behind the scenes. Whatever it is will not be a secret for long. Be aware of this.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your long-term relationship with a friend or a group might need to be changed now. Something is up for grabs, which means you have to be alert. Don't be afraid of change.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Many of you want more freedom in your career or your job. You want to be self-employed, or you want to have the chance to call your own shots. Now is the time to test new ideas.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

2				9				8
		1				6		
	4	8				3	5	
			3		4			
7								5
			8		1			
	6	3				4	9	
		2				1		
4				2				3

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

9	6	7	3	5	8	4	1	2
1	5	4	2	7	6	3	8	9
8	3	2	9	1	4	5	6	7
5	2	1	7	8	9	6	4	3
4	8	3	6	2	1	7	9	5
6	7	9	5	4	3	8	2	1
3	1	6	4	9	5	2	7	8
2	4	8	1	3	7	9	5	6
7	9	5	8	6	2	1	3	4

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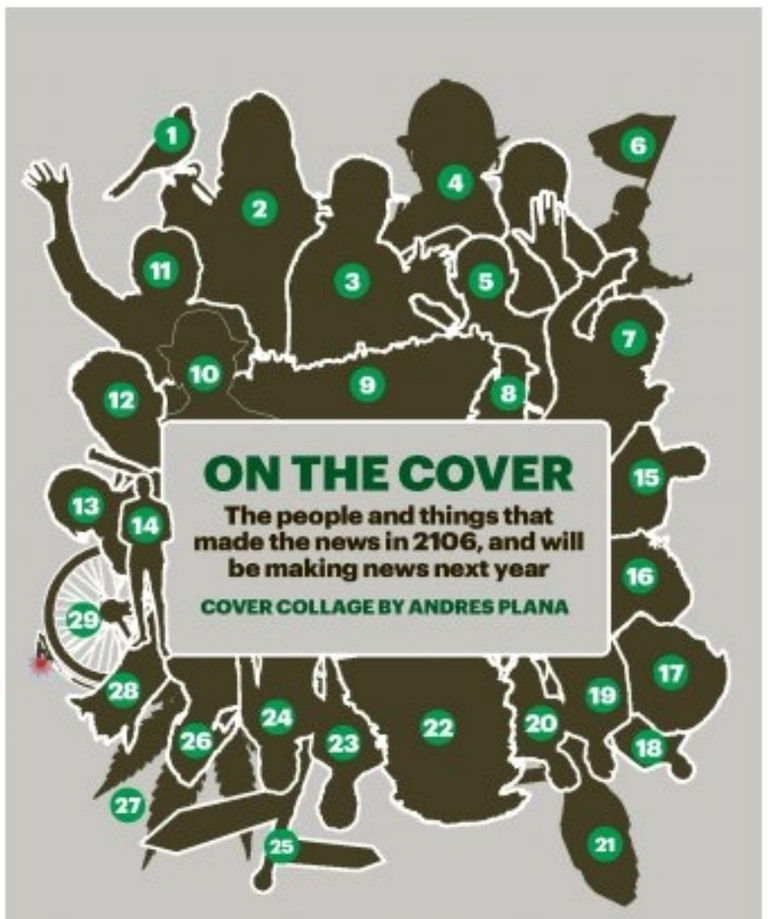
THE YEAR THAT WAS AND.... ...THE YEAR THAT WILL BE

Saying goodbye and hello



1. The grey jay
2. Penny Oleksiak
3. The Toronto Blue Jays
4. Fort McMurray
5. Barack Obama
6. Aleppo, Syria
7. Prince
8. Fidel Castro
9. Refugees
10. Leonard Cohen
11. Hillary Clinton
12. David Bowie
13. Star Wars: Rogue One
14. Chris Rock at the White Oscars
15. Rob Ford
16. One of Toronto's elusive capybaras
17. Donald Trump
18. Vladimir Putin
19. Ryan Reynolds
20. Ryan Gosling
21. Skinny buildings for generation squeeze
22. Indigenous reconciliation
23. Justin Trudeau
24. Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau
25. Brexit
26. Beyoncé
27. Pot legalization
28. Purple Asparagus
29. Cycling and road safety

Vicky Mochama
Metro

If 2016 was a movie, it could be nominated in every single category. There was drama, comedy, action, and reality TV — and that was just the American election. If 2016 had to be played by one actor, it'd be Meryl Streep. Only Meryl has the range to hit all the highs and lows that 2016 took us through.

This issue of Metro is a retrospective of all the moments that delighted, frightened and surprised us like only Meryl could.

It is also a look forward to the year ahead. The next 12 months will look nothing like that last 12.

Change — big or small, desired or not — is the enduring quality of our time. Our cities, provinces, and country will not stay the same.

And really, neither will we.

At the beginning of 2017, many of us will resolve to change for the better. Gym memberships will not be used. Plans to spend less money will fall apart. (New shoes, new you?) New Year's resolutions will be forgotten.

But for today, Metro resolves to remember the events that changed the year and to ask:

Who will you be in 2017?

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1 ISSUES THAT MATTERED

Putting the brakes on road fatalities

Speed limits were lowered this year in 14 pedestrian priority corridors, including along Yonge Street. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO FILE

2016 THE YEAR THAT WAS...

Influx in traffic crashes prompts safety strategy

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

This was the year that Toronto changed lanes on road safety.

The shift was actually sparked by numbers posted in 2015 when 65 people died in traffic crashes — a 10-year high. The lion's share of victims were pedestrians and cyclists, which forced Toronto's leaders to acknowledge that decades of designing streets for drivers has left them unsafe for everyone else.

Armed with the data, city officials — led by Mayor John Tory and public works committee chair Coun. Jaye Robinson — began to craft Toronto's first-ever road safety strategy.

However, as soon as the policy was announced, it hit a speed bump.

Speaking to an assembly of reporters and advocates on June 13, Tory proclaimed the new road safety plan would reduce deaths and serious injuries on Toronto streets by 20 per cent by 2026. The total budget for the plan was $68.1 million over five years — only $40 million of which was new spending.

Tory hailed the plan as "realistic," but pedestrian and cyclist advocates pounced on the policy, calling it "timid" at best and "ridiculous" at worst.

Metro's Deadly Streets series zeroed in on the plan's inadequacies, comparing it to New York City's far more ambitious — and costly — road strategy and showing how it ignored the best practices utilized by the world's safest cities.

The backlash prompted an immediate U-turn. Tory dropped the 20 per cent target, and adopted the rhetoric of Vision Zero, the notion that traffic deaths can be eliminated, not just reduced.

Meanwhile, Robinson put forward a motion to increase the road safety plan's budget and accelerate its implementation. By the time it was unanimously approved by council in July, the plan's budget was boosted to $80 million and its timeline moved ahead.

The city has since lowered the speed limit along 14 so-called "pedestrian priority corridors," installed new crosswalk markings at 317 intersections, increased crossing times at 37 intersections and redesigned 14 of the most dangerous crossings to make them safer.

Unfortunately, the changes came too late to stop the carnage. At press time, 44 pedestrians had been killed by drivers in the city in 2016, five more than in 2015. Overall traffic fatalities were also up, hitting 77.

Speaking with Metro, Robinson said that if the road safety plan fails to bring down those numbers next year, more drastic action will be taken.

There are other signs of how Toronto is turning the corner when it comes to traffic fatalities.

Staff is finalizing the official "complete streets" guidelines, which, according to the city's website, will ensure roads are "safe for all users."

As well, Toronto's new transportation director, Barbara Gray, comes to the city from Seattle, where she led a number of successful pedestrian and cyclist safety initiatives.

In an interview earlier this month, Gray called the road safety plan "a good start" but said that "with safety, you always want to do more faster."

BY THE NUMBERS

77

At press time, a total of 77 traffic fatalities occurred in 2016, up from 65 in 2015.

44

At press time, 44 pedestrians had been killed by drivers in the city.

$80M

The budget for the road safety plan was boosted to $80 million in July.

2 ISSUES THAT MATTERED

What the Black Lives Matter movement and the fight at Toronto Pride really meant to the city — and the rest of Canada

Black Lives Matter stopped the Toronto Pride parade on July 3 and issued nine demands. One was that police officers no longer be allowed to have floats in the parade. THE CANADIAN PRESS

VICKY MOCHAMA

When Black Lives Matter stopped the Toronto Pride Parade, I was in awe.

Not just because they looked incredible evoking the Black Panthers and Beyoncé, but also because they reminded us that protest and community gets things done.

Until that moment, I had been resolved to the black community's marginalization in queer spaces. Queer white people often paid lip service to justice and equality while regularly diminishing and fetishizing non-white communities.

My first year at Pride, I was shocked when a white lesbian grabbed my butt in the exact same way that straight white men often do. This was supposed to be a different, safer space.

Black Lives Matter's action at Pride reminded the queer community that in every space white supremacy and aggression must be put under a spotlight. For the group, it wasn't just enough to protest the police and city hall (which they did in February) but also to question and put a check on racism within activist spaces. Their recognition as Pride's Honoured Activist Group didn't mean that they had to lessen their politics as a result.

It's a lesson worth taking.

I used to criticize Canadian media for its blinding whiteness. That was before they hired me, gave me insurance, and a platform via this column.

Now that I have a seat at a table — not, however, in the room where decisions happen — is it still fair for me to level the same criticisms that I used to? Am I not now part of the problem?

Honestly, this gig is still new; I don't yet know.

For Black people and other people of colour, this is a consciousness that we live with daily.

Yet the attitude of many people — questioning BLM TO's tactics, demands, right to protest even — revealed that this country hasn't yet dealt with the histories and legacy of race and racism.

This year, we've seen that conceding to or underestimating white supremacy has real effects.

Slowly, stories are beginning to trickle out from white subprime mortgage holders and white Obamacare beneficiaries that they already regret voting for Trump. Their willingness to vote against their self-interest and in favour of whiteness posed not just a danger to others but also to themselves.

White Canadians must reflect on the ways that their perceptions can harm racialized groups. A recent poll by Ipsos Mori found that Canadians perceive the Muslim population in Canada to be 14 per cent higher than it actually is.

It is this perception that gets weaponized in the "cultural value" dogwhistle, the "niqab ban" and the ill-gotten "Barbarian Cultural Practices Tip Line."

For white Canadians who've benefitted from being atop the racial hierarchy, they too must ask themselves this question: Do black lives matter to White Canada?

CITY MATTERS

TWO ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2017

1. Hot TTC: The situation on many Line 2 cars was too hot to handle this summer. At one point 20 per cent had no air-conditioning, something the TTC blamed on aging equipment. Everyone pledged to do better in 2017.

2. Road tolls: Mayor Tory stunned the city when he announced a plan to raise much-needed revenue for transit by introducing road tolls on the DVP and Gardiner. The idea was endorsed by council in mid-December, despite some cries of protest, mainly from the 905.

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BOXING DAY

3 ISSUES THAT MATTERED

A stronger, bigger, better presence

For decades, Toronto sports were considered somewhat of an afterthought across North American major leagues. But that perception was flipped on its head in 2016. From young up-and-coming sensations like Penny Oleksiak and Andre De Grasse taking charge at the Rio Olympics to local teams making heavyweights sweat in the MLB, NBA and MLS, this year put Toronto's sports in the spotlight in a way no pundits could have predicted. GILBERT NGABO/METRO GILBERT.NGABO@METRONEWS.CA

Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan during NBA action against the Lakers in Toronto Dec. 2. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors

Two consecutive seasons of first-round playoff exits had made even the most hopeful of Raptors fans doubt whether the team was actually capable of building a winning culture. But DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry anchored an imposing 2015-16 campaign that saw the team eclipse 50 wins for the first time, punch its ticket to the conference finals for the first time and come two wins away from dethroning Lebron James and reaching the NBA finals.

Toronto Blue Jays

The Blue Jays' came into 2016 with the expectation of making a run in the World Series, something they haven't done since 1993. Edwin Encarnacion's walk-off three-run in the Wild Card game against the Baltimore Orioles kept the dream alive, and the team put an emphatic seal on it with a sweep of the Texas Rangers in the subsequent ALDS. But the Cleveland Indians killed Toronto's hopes with a Game 5 win in the ALCS.

Edwin Encarnacion #10 of the Toronto Blue Jays after hitting a home run to defeat the Baltimore Orioles 5-2 at Rogers Centre on Oct. 4 in Toronto. GETTY IMAGES

Toronto FC's Sebastian Giovinco, right, and Seattle Sounders' Cristian Roldan in action during the MLS Cup final at BMO Field on Dec. 10. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Toronto FC

Just one converted penalty kick, and Toronto would have been a city of champions. After an impressive regular season that saw them finish third in Eastern Conference, the Reds went on to bury much of the competition faced in the playoffs. For the first time in the team's 10-year history, Toronto FC booked a ticket to the MLS Cup, giving 36,000 diehards a chance to host a championship game at BMO Field on Dec. 10. The city's hopes to hoist a trophy were crushed in a dramatic fashion, following a 5-4 loss on penalties against the Seattle Saunders.

2016 THE TOP THREE

Three other stories that had Torontonians talking:

1. Housing: As housing prices in Toronto skyrocket, and rent continues to rise, many are feeling the strain on their budgets. The mayor acknowledged the crisis at a panel he hosted in October. Housing prices are forecasted to rise another eight per cent in 2017, according to a December outlook from Re/Max.

2. Ghomeshi trial: The Toronto trial of former CBC radio host Jian Ghomeshi ignited a national discussion on consent, sexual harassment and sexual assault. Next year, all universities and colleges will roll out standalone sexual assault and harassment policies under new Ontario legislation.

3. Capyabaras on the loose: The two dog-sized rodents captivated the city when they escaped from High Park Zoo in May. They made it home safe and sound separately in June. MAY WARREN/METRO

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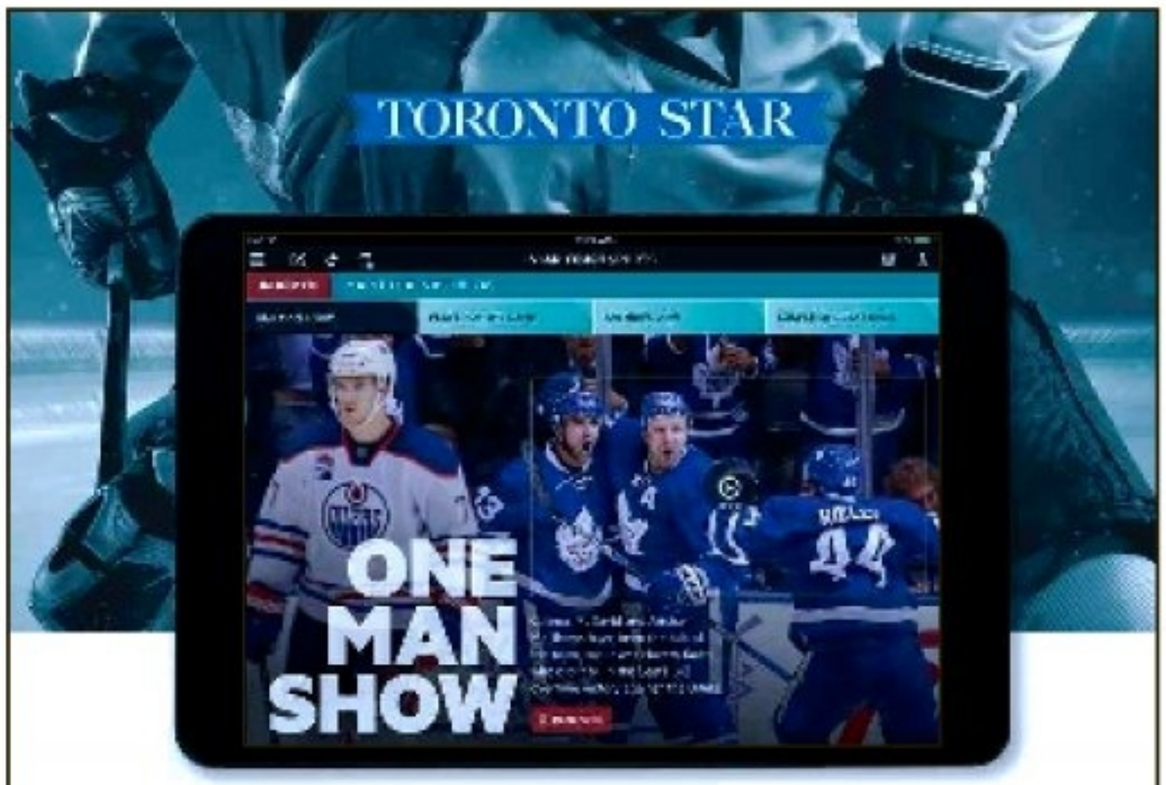

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

A look at the year's most compelling images

Metro photographer Eduardo Lima on some of the most powerful images captured this year by journalists in Toronto.

1 Disappointment for Toronto FC player: Toronto FC forward Sebastian Giovinco on the field during the MLS Cup against the Seattle Sounders at BMO Field on Dec. 10. COLE BURSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Comment: Giovinco's face in this picture symbolizes the feeling among Toronto FC fans after the game, which brought the team one penalty shootout away from being champions.

2 Paying tribute to late Rob Ford — Eleven-year-old Kendra Tapp and her father, Rod, who is wearing a signed T-shirt he received at a FordFest event, pay their respect as former mayor Rob Ford lies in repose at city hall in Toronto on March 28. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Comment: Rob Ford's death proved that despite being widely controversial and widely disliked, the former mayor was loved by many of his constituents. This image captures a simple moment that tells that story in its entirety.

3 Girl power: Toronto Newsgirls boxing club challenged U.S. "pick-up artist" Roosh V. to step on their turf in February as he planned meetups of his followers around the world, including in Toronto. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Comment: Roosh V., who is known for his "pro-rape" views, ended up cancelling the meeting scheduled for Toronto alleging safety concerns. This image, which made international headlines, is a great literal depiction of female power. The athlete's faces and stances represent those of everyone who refuses to accept misogyny.

4 Fall from grace: Former CBC host Jian Ghomeshi and defence lawyer Marie Henein went to an office at Church and King streets shortly after leaving the courthouse where he was found not guilty on March 24 on choking and sex assault charges. RENE JOHNSTON/TORONTO STAR

Comment: The early part of 2016 was filled with pictures of Ghomeshi pushing through crowds inside and outside the courthouse. This image, captured away from the throng, depicts the once celebrated radio host's fall from celebrity to recluse.

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1 ISSUES THAT WILL MATTER

Stories that will define the new year

THE YEAR THAT WILL BE 2017

Indigenous efforts, growth and tenant rights take lead

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

There is no shortage of controversial stories expected to carry on into 2017. From Autonomy for the city, to challenging Toronto's 2 a.m. last call, 2017 is shaping up to be an interesting year.

Autonomy for T.O.

In a sit-down interview with Metro in December, Mayor John Tory said the city can hardly "change its socks" without asking the province for permission.

A week later, he joined his counterparts in Ottawa, Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary in asking for greater powers for cities to administer their own affairs, especially when it comes to new revenue tools like local sales or income taxes.

Toronto still needs to patch a $91-million hole in its 2017 budget, so expect this debate to continue well into the new year.

Truth & Reconciliation

This was the year the Truth and Reconciliation Commission forced Canadians to confront the legacy of "cultural genocide" associated with the residential school program.

There's far more work to be done, and much of it will take place in cities like Toronto — now home to the country's largest urban aboriginal population.

More and more indigenous voices in Toronto are demanding to be included in the city-building process, whether it's flag raisings at city hall or new "indigenous placemaking" efforts like adding traditional Anishinaabe names to local street signs. Expect their efforts to continue into 2017 and beyond.

Yonge Street on a busy, bustling day in Toronto on Dec. 13, 2016. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Outwards and upwards

There are nearly 1,600 storeys of condo development planned along Yonge Street between Dundas and Bloor alone.

The population of the downtown core is expected to double by 2041. New parents are being told the schools closest to their condos are full. No matter where you look, Toronto is growing, and how the city manages — or fails to manage — that growth will be a storyline in 2017.

Last call

Toronto's music advisory council is pushing the city to extend last call for bars past 2 a.m. Representatives from the entertainment industry say the move could add billions to the local economy and make the city a more attractive tourist destination.

Debate over the proposal — which could be implemented by fall 2017 — should be interesting, pitting the city's desire to be a more contemporary cultural hub against well-organized community organizations like the Yorkville Anti-Noise Coalition.

Renter's rights

Earlier this month, Toronto city council approved a new set of rules aimed at protecting tenants and penalizing negligent landlords. It was a sign that the city's leaders are beginning to recognize that their constituencies extend beyond property owners. In fact, almost half of Toronto's residents are renters, a number that's certain to grow as more people get priced out of the booming real estate market. From record-low vacancy rates to record-high rental costs, renters are facing a number of challenges the city will need to confront in 2017.

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Another Ford in the big chair? Doug Ford just may announce a run for mayor this year. CARLOS OSORIO/TORONTO STAR

Psychic predicts a baby for Drake, good year for Leafs

THE FUTURE

Resignation, dismissal of TTC CEO

Tara Deschamps
For Metro | Toronto

A new TTC boss, a streaker at city hall, a baby for Drake and a playoff berth for the Toronto Maple Leafs might all be on their way in 2017.

That's if you believe Psychic Nikki, a Toronto-based audient clairvoyant (that's someone who can hear and see specifics about the future).

Ahead of the new year, she shared her 2017 predictions on everything from local politics to Toronto's biggest stars with Metro.

She warned city hall should be careful because she foresees a leak or flooding, an emergency curfew closing down city roads and a resignation or dismissal of TTC CEO Andy Byford.

Former councillor Doug Ford, long rumoured to be returning to politics, will announce he's running in another election, she predicted.

"He could run for mayor in the future," Nikki mused.

In previous years, Nikki's been spot on the money. She rightly predicted Doug's late brother Rob Ford would become ill, John Tory would be elected mayor and that there would be a rash of food-related illnesses at the CNE. Internationally, she foresaw the 9/11 terror attacks, Michael Jackson's death and one of the Duchess of Cambridge's pregnancies.

As for Toronto stars in 2017, she believes Drake might enter a committed relationship, buy a sports team and star in a big film. Plus, he might become Daddy Drake.

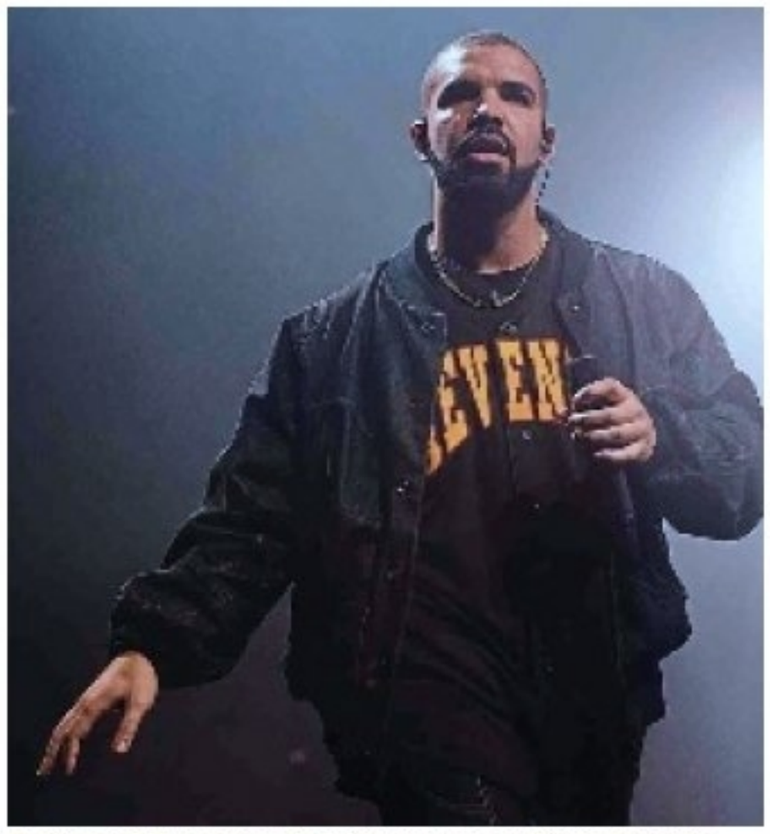
When it comes to the star's favourite basketball team, Nikki predicted a potential change in the Raptor's management, a few injuries for players (nothing serious enough to derail the team) and a good chance at making it to the playoffs.

The Leafs, meanwhile, will finally break their playoff drought, Nikki said.

"I always see a parade and I always see the Stanley Cup for them," she said, laughing.

But don't get too excited, she warned.

"The time frame can be out sometimes for psychics."



Drake could become a dad this year, according to Toronto audient clairvoyant Psychic Nikki.
CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Finally a good year ahead on the ice? It may be in the stars, Toronto audient clairvoyant Psychic Nikki says.
STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR

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Moments that won't be forgotten

From the prime minister's welcoming of Syrian refugees to the royal visit, here are five moments from the past year.

METRO WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS/ALL PHOTOS THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged additional humanitarian support for refugees at a press conference at the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly in September.

SYRIAN REFUGEES

Our model recognized across the world

This year, as the Liberal government moved to fulfil their (modified) promise to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees into the country, Canada's population numbers swelled to well over 36 million. This number is at its largest since 1988, as the population grew by 1.2 per cent. The boost in overall population was due, in part, to the Liberals' Syrian refugee resettlement program, a model which has received commendation around the world and is seen as one to emulate. The number of Syrian refugees in Canada since November 2015 is well over 30,000. However, Canadians are pushing the government to do more.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge attend a children's party with Prince George and Princess Charlotte at Government House in Victoria, B.C. on Sept. 29.

ROYAL VISIT

'Pop,' says the Princess

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge brought their two children, George and Charlotte, along for a royal tour of Canada in September. The couple met with Olympic athletes, talked with Syrian refugees and hung out with PM Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau.

CLIMATE ACTION

National carbon tax announced

In October, 2016 Trudeau announced a national "floor price" on carbon that would require all provinces and territories to have some form of carbon pricing by 2018. Putting a price on carbon is meant to incentivize individuals and companies to look for lower emission options.

Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks at Parliament Hill after meeting with Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand, Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde and President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Natan Obed.

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

Path to reconciliation

Despite what many thought was inadequate funding in the federal budget for indigenous people, the Liberal government says it has been committed to furthering the process of reconciliation. The Liberals removed Canada's objector status to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in May. The government also launched an independent inquiry into Canada's missing, murdered indigenous women in August.

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VICKY MOCHAMA ON THE QUEST TO BECOME MORE CULTURED

There are people who are genuinely intellectually curious, and there are those who are genuinely interested in bragging about their intellectual curiosity. I am the latter.

At the beginning of the year, I thought I would become a more cultured person.

Without intent or desire, I have made friends who have no interest in the Marvel Cinematic Universe or the Instagram accounts of football players. Determined to (a) impress these smart, serious people and (b) actually become smarter, I drew up a month-by-month plan of all the different types of culture I would take in. The plan was in graph form, the Y-axis consisting of months of the year, the X-axis organized by verb: Go, Listen, Watch and Read.

In January, for example, I would go to the art gallery, listen to Kendrick Lamar's To Pimp A Butterfly, watch Rigoletto, and read Marlon James' A Brief History of Seven Killings. I won't keep you in suspense — I failed. I fell asleep halfway through Rigoletto. The whole thing is in Italian!

The bold plans I had for June (go to the House of Blues in Chicago, read Love In the Time of Cholera, etc.) were dead in the water by mid February. In the spring, I realized I wouldn't achieve my ambitious plans. Wanting to be dauntingly erudite had not stopped me from watching Captain America: Civil War three times in one week in theatres. Yet the goal of becoming smarter was implanted. So, in May, I asked for a subscription to the New Yorker as a birthday present.

This was a more sensible plan. I'm a writer. I enjoy everything I've ever read in the magazine. And I no longer have the attention span I used to for books. It seemed perfect. And at first, it was. I would get through an issue pretty quickly and then I could do what I had intended all along: tell people about how I'd read something in the New Yorker. There are people who are genuinely intellectually curious, and there are those who are genuinely interested in bragging about their intellectual curiosity.

I am the latter.

To my mind, this has always seemed like the reason for most cultural to-do lists. Saying "I've been wanting to see that film" is really about telling people that you're smart enough to know about the film. Also, that you use the word "film."

But ambition met its foe: Life, and the full tedious living of it, distracted me. A new job, new friends, new shows on Netflix — all consumed my attention before I could open up a New Yorker. I took a few of them on a vacation in the hopes of catching up, but I mostly just changed the temperature at which I was not reading the New Yorker.

Goals are an admirable thing to have. Working towards them with or without success is a form of personal growth. Embracing my lack of success doesn't mean I didn't learn anything: I learned that there are some things that I'll never be good at again like listening to the newest albums. Failure has a clarifying quality.

Time will tell if I have achieved my goal of impressing intelligent people. (My conversation starter at parties is "The movie Mean Girls tells you everything you need to know about politics" so who can truly say?)

But what I've missed in culture, I've learned about myself: I don't know how Rigoletto ends, and I'm OK with that.

> **Embracing my lack of success doesn't mean I didn't learn anything.**

SOUND SMART

We all have to make a lot of small talk over the holidays. And you're going to need to sound like you know what you're talking about. Here are some words and phrases that really caught on in 2016.

Hatchimals

DEFINITION The holiday season's hottest toy is an electronic stuffed bird similar to a Furby, except to play with it you have to wait for it to theatrically hatch out of the plastic egg it comes in.

Dumpster fire

DEFINITION A complete mess, much like the year 2016 was said to be for the planet: A stinky, dangerous, flaming pile of garbage ruining the surrounding climate.

Whitelash

DEFINITION A backlash by white people. Originally referred to civil-rights naysayers in the 1960s, but revived during the 2016 U.S. election.

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Year's biggest celebrity stories

2016 THE YEAR THAT WAS...

From swoon-worthy couples to crushing breakups

Ryan Porter
For Metro Canada

You know it's a big year in celebrity news when Eva Mendes can carry Ryan Gosling's baby for eight months before anyone even notices. These celebrity bombshells were the biggest focus-pullers of the year.

The cutest Toronto duo since the panda cubs
Does Buckingham Palace have Netflix? Since Prince Harry arranged an introduction to Suits star Meghan Markle through a friend last July, the couple is so official that the Toronto-based actor wears a chain with an M and an H on it.

Kim butts in on Kanye and Taylor
In July, Kim Kardashian dropped Snapchat video of husband Kanye West telling an approving Taylor Swift he wanted to name-check her in his song Famous.

Taylor denounced the track after its release, which social media took as proof of Swift's duplicitous nature. But Kanye never mentioned the lyric "I made that b— famous" to Swift, which she underlined in a statement, declaring, "I would very much like to be excluded from this narrative." OK, starting now.

If you need Jennifer Aniston, she will just be happily married and glowing
Where were you when you found out that Angelina Jolie had filed for divorce from Brad Pitt? Adele called the split "the end of an era" (she later clarified that she was joking and "couldn't give a f—ing s—").

And while the saga continues to develop, the relative lack of commotion just shows how much we have all moved on to more pressing matters, such as whether or not Madonna has butt implants.

Johnny Depp: from movie monster to actual monster
When Amber Heard filed for a restraining order against Johnny Depp in May, claiming Johnny had been "physically and verbally abusive" throughout their relationship, it was an idol-crushing moment. That is something that you just can't come back from. Unless you are Sean Penn, Nicholas Cage, Christian Slater, Josh Brolin, or another powerful man in Hollywood, and then it's fine.

The Kim Kardashian jewel heist
During Paris fashion week in October, Kim Kardashian was bound and gagged at gunpoint in her Paris hotel room as jewel thieves scooped up $10 million in jewelry, including her $4.5-million engagement ring. The stress from the robbery is said to be a contributing factor to Kanye West's recent stay in a psychiatric hospital.

2016 THE TOP FIVE

Let's not forget these classic pop culture moments from 2016:

1. The late, great everyone. If one of your favourite singers didn't pass away far too early this year, you may have terrible taste in music.

2. The Rob also rises. Rob Kardashian went super public with his new love and family frenemy Blac Chyna. In November, they welcomed daughter Dream Kardashian.

3. Celine shows how a heart does go on. At her husband Rene Angélil's funeral, Celine Dion bravely marched through the Montreal cathedral as a widow, 22 years after walking the same aisle as a bride.

4. Live with Kelly and no one. Kelly Ripa has had 52 cohosts since Michael Straihan left in May, but there's no question as to who the star is.

5. Who is Becky? Beyoncé's visual album Lemonade crackled with a political charge, yet the most discussed lyric remains, "better call Becky with the good hair."

RYAN PORTER/FOR METRO

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CANADA'S YEAR OF 'TRU' LOVE, STRONG AND FREE

From Canadian selfie-snappers, to adoring international fans, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's popularity has been off the charts in 2016. And that shows no signs on wavering in the New Year. Canadians love him, Barack Obama loves him, and a host of other international leaders adore him. Here are some things Trudeau has gone through in his first year as prime minister.

METRO/THE CANADIAN PRESS ALL PHOTOS THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 Bro-mance

One of Trudeau's major accomplishments was the repairing of the fractured relationship with the United States. The blossoming friendship between Obama and Trudeau captivated the world and melted hearts. The duo were nicknamed Trubama and memes were born across the social media spheres. It remains to be seen whether the repaired relationship will weather a Donald Trump administration, but that's for 2017 to decide.

2 Elbowgate

In May of 2016, Trudeau caused his first national scandal, in which he was accused of having "manhandled" two opposition members of parliament, one Conservative and one NDP. It took place as opposition MPs sought to delay a closure motion on the final reading of Bill C-14, the bill on physician-assisted death. NDP member of parliament Ruth Ellen Brosseau alleged that Trudeau elbowed her in the chest, causing her to leave the chamber and miss the vote. Trudeau apologized numerous times, but the scandal took on a life of its own and was discussed for days. Many opposition members of parliament compared the incident to criminal assault and violent outbreaks in other countries.

3 Gender parity

Ever since he coined the world-famous phrase: "Because it's 2015," in frank response to a question about his gender-equal cabinet, Trudeau has been an unstoppable force in advocating for gender equality. "I'm going to keep saying, loud and clearly, that I am a feminist. Until it is met with a shrug," he told a United Nations conference in March. At the conference, Trudeau said he and his wife, Sophie, are teaching their kids — two boys and a girl — to embrace feminism. On that note, Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau used the International Day of the Girl this year to launch her social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. "It's time," she wrote on Facebook. "On this International Day of the Girl, it's time to share the amazing journey we're on together."

GRÉGOIRE-TRUDEAU

CULTURE

Forget Trump, focus on our feel-good king Justin Trudeau

Ryan Porter
For Metro Canada

In 2011, when Barack Obama revealed that Osama bin Laden had been assassinated, the announcement interrupted The Celebrity Apprentice, where Donald Trump was weighing LaToya Jackson's ability to serve as the next Apprentice.

Five years later, Barack Obama is out of a job, LaToya Jackson is out of a job, and Donald Trump is going to be president. Well done, America.

It's hard not to take the Americans' decision to elect Donald Trump personally when it has everything to do with severing trade deals and looking suspiciously at everyone not born in the U.S.A. (not to mention looking suspiciously at lots of non-white people who were born in the U.S.A.).

But in spite of that country's overwhelming cultural influence, we are not Americans. And, actually, there's a lot for a Canadian to be proud of in 2016.

Justin Trudeau remains the country's feel-good king. He is generous with a selfie, with or without a shirt, and his unflinching support for immigrants and First Nations people is an example for all of us in how to treat one another.

Not only was he the first sitting Prime Minister to march in a Pride parade, but he marched in three.

Along with Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, he's been a powerful ambassador internationally for the best of what Canada can be. Not to mention that his panda cuddles are on point.

His boss is pretty great too. Canada's monarch, Queen Elizabeth, remains beloved at age 90 for good reason. Her cutest moment may have been her cameo with her grandson Prince Harry in a viral video to hype the Invictus Games, a sporting competition for wounded veterans.

Responding to Barack and Michelle Obama's taunts, she uttered a dignified, "Oh really? Please." Enough said!

Harry is also strengthening Canadian/British relations through his new relationship with actor Meghan Markle, who films Suits in Toronto. We've seen Game of Thrones. We know how these country-crossing royal romances work and, suffice to say, we are ready for the red-and-white wedding.

Despite the division among our American neighbours, 2016 found Canadians coming together over common ground. Where were you when the Tragically Hip performed in Kingston? Apparently you were watching and/or listening to the show, as one-in-three Canadians — 11.7 million — experienced it live through the CBC, either on TV, radio or online.

But it wasn't just Canadians loving Canadian artists. Drake's Views became the most-streamed album ever. And with every click, people saw the Caitlin Cronenberg-shot album cover, featuring a superimposed Drake sitting like a king on his throne atop the CN Tower. To paraphrase Drizzy, world, you can thank us later.

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5 FOOD TRENDS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2017

It's not just the fashion world that uses change as a way of keeping us interested. The food world — from popular grocery items to hard-to-book restaurants — is about as trend-addicted as it gets. Doubt us? Think back to the kale chip fever of 2015. Or, a little thing called tacos? Here are the trends we'll be watching in 2017.

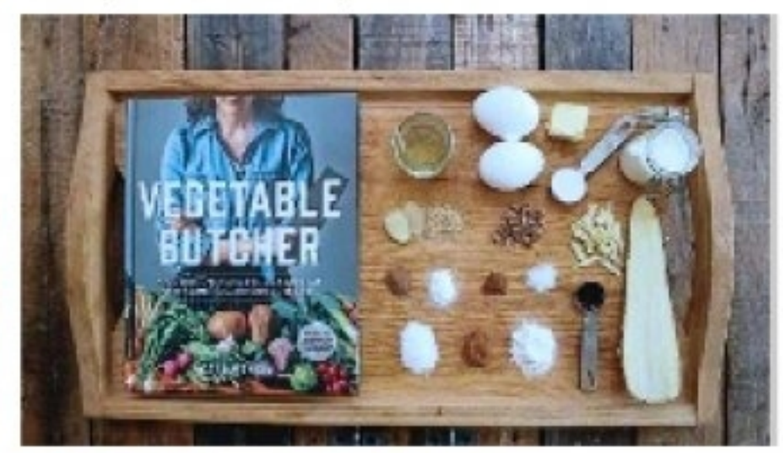
CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

1 Colour of the Year: Purple

Pantone can't be the only one that makes the big pronouncements on colour. We're betting you're going to notice a lot more of this rich and phytochemical-indicating shade on future trips to the grocery store. You'll see purple sweet potatoes, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, even corn and asparagus. But you'll also notice purple popping up in chips and cereal.

2 Innovation of the Year: Amazon Go

There may only be one cashier-less grocery store open in Seattle but Amazon promises to bring AI wizardry to 2,000 locations. Shoppers swipe their smartphones on a sensor as they enter, get groceries and the "just walk out" technology charges your Amazon account. No word on whether it's coming to Canada. Which gives us time to figure out how to send our driver-less car to go and pick up the groceries.



3 Cuisine of the Year: Vegetable Butchery

Upping our veggie intake is a well-known boon to health and couching it in terms that carnivores can appreciate never hurts. Books like Cara Mangini's The Vegetable Butcher and Toronto's own Yam Chops, selling beet burgers and Korean barbecued vegan chicken as well as their famous yam chops, are leading the way.

4 Feel Good of the Year: Waste Not, Want Not

In North America, every household tosses out an average 215 to 275 kilos of food. Expect to see talk about how meal planning can reduce the groceries that get wasted. You'll also see chefs including dishes that boast carrot tops or beet greens as a way of showing off their ability to use more of the food they're buying.

5 Ingredient of the Year: Coconut

Kale has hogged the spotlight too long! Many home cooks have swapped canola oil for coconut oil for its high smoke point and health benefits, but expect to see coconut popping up other places, too. Baked coconut chips, coconut tortillas, coconut flour, coconut yogurt and kefir and deliciously, coconut butter.

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Final goodbye: Roll call for notable deaths of 2016

Many notables died this year: Fidel Castro, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, Muhammad Ali, Gordie Howe and more. Here are some of the famous people who left the world stage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JANUARY

Otis Clay, 73
Hall of fame rhythm and blues artist known as much for his charitable work in Chicago as for his singing. Jan. 8.

David Bowie, 69
Other-worldly musician who broke pop and rock boundaries. Jan. 10.

Alan Rickman, 69
Classically trained British stage star and sensual screen villain in the Harry Potter saga and other films. Jan. 14.

Glenn Frey, 67
Rock 'n' roll rebel who co-founded the Eagles and formed one of history's most successful songwriting teams. Jan. 18.

Abe Vigoda, 94
Actor who played detective Phil Fish in the 1970s TV series Barney Miller. Jan. 26.

FEBRUARY

Maurice White, 74
Earth, Wind & Fire founder whose horn-driven band sold more than 90 million albums. Feb. 3.

Antonin Scalia, 79
Influential conservative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court. Feb. 13.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 93
Egyptian diplomat who helped negotiate his country's landmark peace deal with Israel but clashed with the United States. Feb. 16.

Harper Lee, 89
Elusive novelist whose child's-eye view of racial injustice in a small Southern town, To Kill a Mockingbird, became an Oscar-winning film. Feb. 19.

MARCH

Nancy Reagan, 94
Backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey. March 6.

Rob Ford, 46
Former mayor of Toronto whose career crashed in a drug-driven, obscenity-laced debacle. March 22.

Garry Shandling, 66
Actor and comedian who masterminded a brand of phoney docudrama with The Larry Sanders Show. March 24.

Patty Duke, 69
As a teen, she won an Oscar for playing Helen Keller in The Miracle Worker. March 29.

APRIL

Merle Haggard, 79
Country giant who rose from poverty and prison to international fame through his songs about outlaws and underdogs. April 6.

Dwayne "Pearl" Washington, 52
Basketball player who went from New York City playground wonder to Big East star at Syracuse. April 20.

Prince, 57
One of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times with hits including When Doves Cry. April 21.

MAY

Tommy Kono, 85
He took up weightlifting in an internment camp for Japanese-Americans and went on to win two Olympic gold medals for the United States. May 1.

Morley Safer, 84
Veteran 60 Minutes correspondent who exposed a military atrocity in Vietnam that played an early role in changing Americans' view of the war. May 19.

Rosalie Chris Lerman, 90
Passionate advocate of Holocaust remembrance. May 19.

JUNE

Muhammad Ali, 74
Heavyweight champion whose fast fists, irrepressible personality and determined spirit transcended sports and captivated the world. June 3.

Gordie Howe, 88
The Canadian farm boy and NHL's quintessential star. June 10.

Anton Yelchin, 27
Rising actor best known for playing Chekov in the new Star Trek films. June 19.

JULY

Elie Wiesel, 87
Romanian-born Holocaust survivor whose classic Night launched his career as one of the world's foremost witnesses and humanitarians. July 2.

Clown Dimitri, 80
Beloved Swiss clown and mime who studied under Marcel Marceau. July 19.

Rev. Tim LaHaye, 90
Co-author of the Left Behind series, a literary juggernaut that brought end-times prophecy into mainstream bookstores. July 25.

AUGUST

John McLaughlin, 89
Conservative political commentator and host of a television show that pioneered hollering-heads discussions of politics. Aug. 16.

Sonia Rykiel, 86
French designer whose relaxed sweaters helped liberate women from stuffy suits. Aug. 25.

Gene Wilder, 83
Frizzy-haired actor who brought his deft comedic touch to such unforgettable roles as the neurotic accountant in The Producers. Aug. 28.

Vera Caslavska, 74
Seven-time Olympic gymnastics gold medallist who stood up against the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. Aug. 30.

SEPTEMBER

Phyllis Schlafly, 92
Outspoken conservative activist who helped defeat the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s. Sept. 5.

Rose Mofford, 94
Arizona's first female governor and a shepherd for the state during a period of political turbulence. Sept. 15.

Shimon Peres, 93
Former Israeli president and prime minister who was celebrated as a Nobel prize-winning visionary. Sept. 28.

OCTOBER

King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 88
World's longest reigning monarch, he was revered in Thailand as a demigod, a humble father figure and an anchor of stability through decades of upheaval. Oct. 13.

Junko Tabei, 77
The first woman to climb Mount Everest. Oct. 20.

Tom Hayden, 76
1960s antiwar activist whose name became forever linked with the Chicago 7 trial, Vietnam War protests and his ex-wife, actress Jane Fonda. Oct. 23.

NOVEMBER

Janet Reno, 78
First woman to serve as U.S. attorney general during the Clinton administration. Nov. 7.

Leonard Cohen, 82
Canadian singer-songwriter who blended spirituality and sexuality in songs like Hallelujah, Suzanne and Bird on a Wire. Nov. 7.

Florence Henderson, 82
Broadway star who became one of America's most beloved television moms in The Brady Bunch. Nov. 24.

Fidel Castro, 90
He led his bearded rebels to victorious revolution in 1959, embraced Soviet-style communism and challenged U.S. power during his half-century of rule in Cuba. Nov. 25.

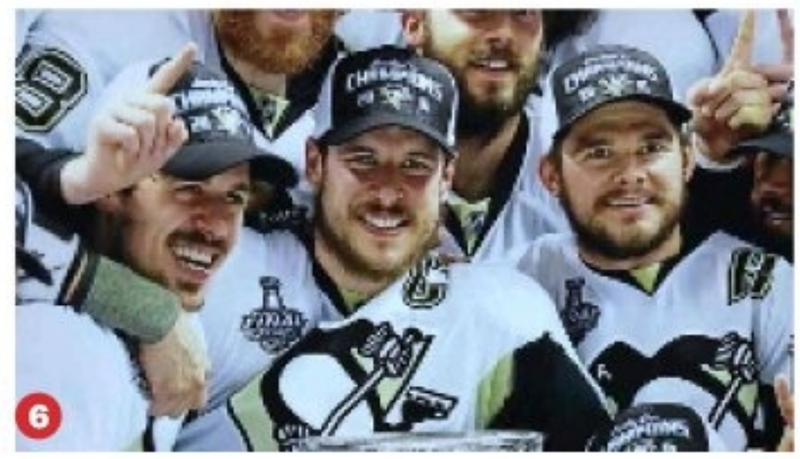
DECEMBER

John Glenn, 95
His 1962 flight as the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth made him a hero and propelled him to a career in the U.S. Senate. Dec. 8.

Alan Thicke, 69
Versatile performer who gained his greatest renown as the beloved dad on the sitcom Growing Pains. Dec. 13.

Zsa Zsa Gabor, 99
The jet-setting Hungarian actress who made a career out of multiple marriages, conspicuous wealth and jaded wisdom about the glamorous life. Dec. 18.

metro SPORTS
THE YEAR THAT WAS AND.... ...THE YEAR THAT WILL BE



Best sports moments of 2016

1 **Feb. 7, Santa Clara, Calif.** — Peyton Manning won his second NFL title in his final professional game as the Denver Broncos toppled the Carolina Panthers 24-10 in Super Bowl 50. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

2 **Feb. 13, Toronto** — Minnesota high-flyer Zach LaVine won the dunk competition, but the All-Star crowd really warmed to Orlando upstart Aaron Gordon's hops. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

3 **April 14, Los Angeles** — Kobe Bryant upstaged the Golden State Warriors' record 73rd win of the season with an incredible 60-point performance in his retirement game. JUAN OCAMPO/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

4 **May 7, Leicester, England** — Riyad Mahrez and Leicester hoisted the Premier League trophy in one of the most unexpected championship wins in sports — ever. LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

5 **May 15, Arlington, Texas** — The Jays got the knockout in October, but Texas' Rougned Odor's shot will stand as the counterpoint to Jose Bautista's batflip. RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ/STAR-TELEGRAM VIA AP

6 **June 12, San Jose, Calif.** — Sidney Crosby's Pittsburgh Penguins — hockey's hottest team in 2016 — turned around a scuffling season to win the Stanley Cup. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

7 **June 19, Oakland, Calif.** — LeBron James' block on Andre Iguodala sealed the Cavaliers' come-from-behind championship win over the Warriors' and created an iconic image of The King's greatness. JOE MURPHY /NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

8 **July 10, Saint-Denis, France** — WIth Cristiano Ronaldo sidelined due to injury, Portugal still managed to stun France on home turf to win its first-ever European Championship. PATRIK STOLLARZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

9 **Aug. 17, Rio de Janeiro** — Andre De Grasse couldn't catch Usain Bolt on the track, but the pair's bonding moment during the 200-metre semifinal capitvated the country. OLIVIER MORIN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

10 **Nov. 2, Cleveland, Ohio** — The Chicago Cubs came back to win the World Series in Cleveland, ending a 108-year drought and giving hope to tortured sports fans everywhere. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

11 **Nov. 27, Toronto** — Ernest Jackson hung onto his OT touchdown to give the Ottawa Redblacks a 39-33 win over the Calgary Stampeders in an all-time Grey Cup upset. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reflecting on Penny's shining success

2016 THE YEAR THAT WAS...

The 16-year-old Olympian has won our hearts, is here to stay

Joe Callaghan
For Metro | Toronto

As it has a habit of doing, social media provides some telling context for just how far Canada's athlete of the year has come.

As the curtain comes down on 2016, Penny Oleksiak is these days as prolific online as she is underwater. The face of the country's Olympics campaign in Brazil this past summer, the swimmer now has almost 90,000 followers on Instagram and 55,000 more on Twitter, where she casually tweets over and back with P.K. Subban one day and then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau the next. No big deal.

Yet rewind just a little bit and we are rapidly reminded why, in fact, the Toronto teenager's journey this past year was in fact a very big deal. Monumental. It was great enough to see her justly awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy as the nation's preeminent sportsperson earlier this month.

Oleksiak's first tweet of 2016 came in March when the then 15-year-old shared an article from Toronto Swim Club. It was headlined: 'Canadian up-and-comer @OleksiakPenny could be the fourth and final piece to the relay puzzle. #RioTrials'.

Up and comer? Oleksiak came up all right. Like no one had come up before.

While her new Twitter buddy might relay that a week is a long time in politics, in an Olympic Games, a week is a lifetime, sometimes a few of them. So it was in the Aquatics Centre in Rio de Janeiro in August that Oleksiak collected a gold, silver and bronze haul most competitors would rank as an incredible career's work — yet she racked them up in mere days.

With all she's accomplished in such a short time, It can be easy to forget that Canadian athlete of the year Penny Oleksiak is still a teenager in high school. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Night after night records fell at her feet. The country's youngest ever gold medallist, she blossomed in and out of the pool.

Metro had caught up with Oleksiak in Toronto in the days prior to her departure for Brazil. Even in a relaxed one-on-one setting, she spoke so softly at times you had to strain to hear her. Yet so soon after, as she wrote one of the most unforgettable Canadian sporting tales for a generation, she never wilted, embracing the brave new world.

Nor has she shown any signs of doing so since — in spite of all the new pressures she brought back from Brazil with her. Oleksiak is a groundbreaking athlete. Yet we cannot remind ourselves often enough that she is also a 16-year-old high schooler with a whole other world of challenges in front of her. Case in point: two weeks ago she was midway through a Grade 11 law class at Toronto's Monarch Park Collegiate when she found out she had been named the country's top athlete of 2016.

Intense sporting environments are nothing new in the Oleksiak household and it's something that clearly continues to help. Soon after the Lou Marsh announcement, brother Jamie jumped on Twitter to congratulate Oleksiak, before the Dallas Stars defenceman quickly reminded her that getting her driver's licence was the next challenge.

After the year of her young life, there are few challenges that now faze Oleksiak.

"I think I really learned that I'm stronger than I think," she said on a conference call after the Lou Marsh award. "I want to say that just because, going into Rio I definitely had my doubts about myself. I think I proved to myself that I trained pretty hard last year and I was able to exceed expectations."

She can't stop exceeding them, even when the plan is to be more conservative. On home soil at the short-course world championships in Windsor, Ont. in early December Oleksiak added four more medals to her 2016 haul despite her coach Ben Titley signalling in the build-up that this competition was to be more of a learning tool as they work towards next July's world championships in Budapest.

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Hearty Chicken (or Turkey) and Rice Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you had turkey yesterday, here's a way to use up the extra. If not, pick up a rotisserie chicken on the way home and this hearty and healthy soup will be on the table in 20 minutes.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serving: 6 people

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 carrots, peeled and diced
- 4 celery, trimmed and diced
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 6 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- 3 cups leftover turkey or rotisserie chicken, shredded
- 1 1/2 cups frozen corn (4 cobs with the corn sliced off)
- 1/2 cup fresh dill, chopped
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 2 cups cooked rice
- Salt and pepper

Directions

1. Place oil in a large pot and bring to medium heat. Add onions, carrots and celery and sauté for three minutes, until the vegetables start to soften. Add the thyme and stir.

2. Pour the stock into the pot. Now add the chicken, corn, dill, lemon juice and cooked rice. Taste and add salt and pepper to taste.

3. Let cook 20 minutes before serving

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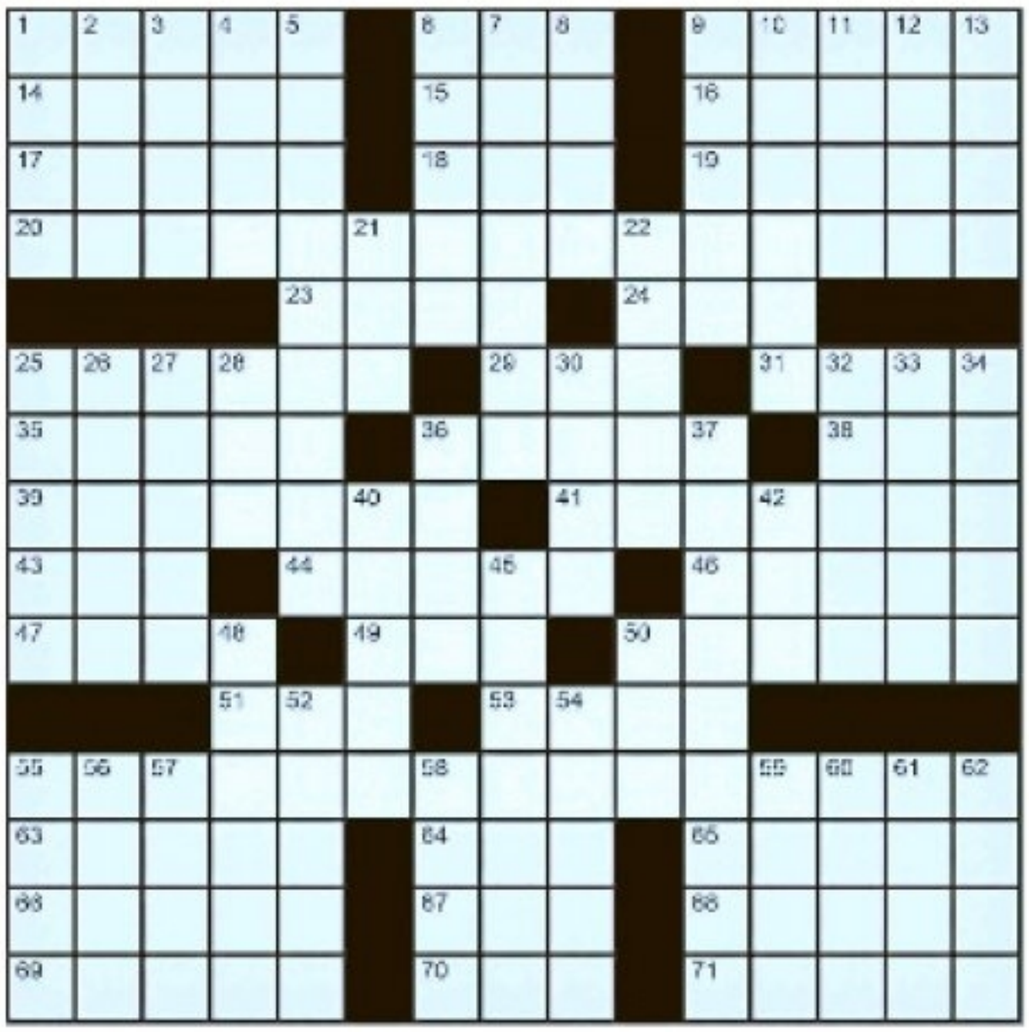
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Fashion designer Mr. Jacobs, and namesakes
6. _-Beauport, Quebec
9. Messy fight
14. "Vega$" star Robert
15. Ms. Longoria
16. Flood embankment
17. Gladiator's 801
18. _ painting
19. Torpid
20. Toronto's Eaton and the West Edmonton Mall: 2 wds.
23. Agenda
24. Compete
25. Beach shoe
29. British singer Rita
31. Mr. Mineo's
35. Scottish television personality Mr. Ferguson
36. Catty, as a remark
38. "Phooey!"
39. Paper-folding art
41. Alberta town; or, British luxury car
43. Pre-Dec. month
44. Short messages
46. Fad
47. Meadow moms
49. Highway topping
50. Hot Wheels item: 2 wds.
51. Boo-_ (Sniff!)
53. Hawaiian island
55. Store tactic to draw customers, as on Boxing Day: 3 wds.
63. Enter the data
64. Fish story
65. Cornered: 2 wds.
66. Theatre's surface
67. Bird of New Zealand, once
68. First Aid Kit netting
69. "The Planets" composer Gustav
70. "State _ Main" (2000)
71. Enroll

DOWN
1. Mires
2. "_ of Triumph" (1948) starring Ingrid Bergman
3. Puerto _
4. USSR, to Russians
5. Acadian Peninsula town in New Brunswick
6. "Bleeding Love" by _ Lewis
7. "Sur le Pont d'_"
8. Math class [abbr.]
9. Russian pancake
10. Annuities, in French
11. Declare with certainty
12. "The Way We _" (1973)
13. Allows
21. _-defined
22. Dodge
25. Tea party biscuit
26. Archery weapon
27. Gullible
28. Archaeological site
30. Grill servings
32. What the insurance commercials duck says
33. Broadcaster Ms. Gibbons
34. More bashful
36. The Ramayana heroine
37. Say "You can do it."
40. Detroit aka The _ City
42. Attempt
45. Environmental deterioration
48. Half-a-cardigan garments
50. _ Guess Who
52. Band of eight
54. Onward
55. Gossip
56. Particular preposition
57. Fire _ (Type of gem)
58. Operatic soprano Ms. Gluck
59. Oliver's comedy partner
60. Border on
61. Loaf around
62. Glancer

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Amazing surprises will come to you through friends and partners at this time. Some of you will get a surprise marriage proposal.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Unexpected good fortune that impacts your health, as well as your job situation, surrounds you now. Many of you will land a good job that was not expected to come your way.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
A sudden opportunity for a vacation looks fabulous! Others might have surprising news regarding children, babies and romance. It's a great day to party! Some families will expand.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Unexpected real-estate opportunities might drop in your lap at this time. If so, you will have to act fast. These chances will not come again, so do what you can to easily take advantage of them.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today is full of surprises in many respects. New faces, new places and new ideas will stir your life and encourage you to move in a new direction.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Unexpected chances to boost your income are likely at this time. If this happens, be ready to act quickly, because your window of opportunity is brief.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Lucky Jupiter is in your sign, and today it is dancing with unpredictable Uranus. This means that sudden, unexpected good fortune will come your way. Fingers crossed.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something happening behind the scenes might mushroom suddenly into a wonderful advantage for you. Whatever happens will make you feel pleased and happy.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A friend or a member of a group might suddenly come forward with a wonderful suggestion that helps you in a positive way. It might change your future goals or expand your life.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
At this time, you definitely have a chance to put your name up in lights. Wonderful opportunities are bubbling all around you. Expect a miracle.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Surprise opportunities to travel might materialize at this time. Others might suddenly decide to get further education or training. Great idea.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Unexpected inheritances, gifts, goodies and favours from others can come your way at this time. Make the most of this and use this advantage wisely.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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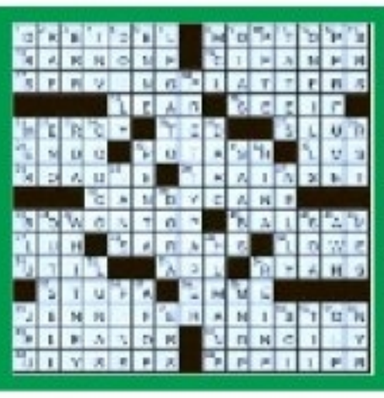

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See store for details.

$29.99
Boots and booties by EXPRESSION and STYLE&CO.
Reg. $99 to $129
See below for details.

60% OFF
Pillows and duvets by BEAUTYREST BLACK, LAUREN RALPH LAUREN and GLUCKSTEINHOME
50% off HOTEL COLLECTION pillows and duvets; LIVE COMFORTABLY pillows.
30% off mattress pads by the same brands.

UP TO 75% OFF
Select luggage collections by RICARDO BEVERLY HILLS, HEYS, LONDON FOG, SAMSONITE, DELSEY, TRAVELPRO, HIGH SIERRA, SWISSGEAR, SKYWAY, WESTJET and SWISS WENGER
See below for details.

HUDSON'S BAY

FREE SHIPPING AT THEBAY.COM*

Savings for all offers are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. **Women's outerwear** excludes Trespass, K-Way, Helly Hansen, Fjallraven, Jack Wolfskin, Marmot, Spyder, HISO, Cinzia Rocca, Sentaler, Sorel, Soia & Kyo, Pajar, Artic Expedition, Lauren Ralph Lauren, Sicily, Michael Michael Kors, Sosken, Kate Spade New York, Cinzia Rocca Icons, 1 Madison Dept 224 and items with 99¢ price endings. **Men's casual outerwear** excludes Helly Hansen, Under Armour, Marmot, Jack Wolfskin, Fjallraven, Moose Knuckles, Soia & Kyo, Vince Camuto, Michael Michael Kors, Selected Homme, G Lab, Pajar, Psycho Bunny, Penfield, Dockers, Levi's and items with 99¢ price endings. **Kids' outerwear** excludes Polo Ralph Lauren, Bob Der Bar, Under Armour, Nike, Kombi, Deux Par Deux, Ben Sherman, Spyder and Hatley. **Women's cold-weather accessories** exclude Adrienne Landau, Burberry, COACH, Kate Spade New York, Hampton Collection Gloves, Linda Richards, Lord & Taylor Cashmere and Gloves, Marc By Marc Jacobs, Michael Michael Kors and items with 99¢ price endings. **Men's cold-weather accessories** exclude Under Armour, Adidas, Hudson North, 180s, Michael Kors, Spyder, Herschel Supply Co., John Varvatos, Pajar and Polo Ralph Lauren. **Kids' cold-weather accessories** exclude Polo Ralph Lauren, Bob Der Bar, Under Armour, Nike, Kombi, Deux Par Deux, Ben Sherman, Spyder and Hatley. **Kids' sleepwear** excludes Hatley and items with 99¢ price endings. **Boots and booties by Style&Co. and Expression:** Selection varies by store; See store for details; Not available at our Queen Street and Vancouver Downtown locations. **Luggage:** Selection varies by store, while quantities last; Excludes items with 99¢ price endings. ***See our back page for details.**

TWO-DAY BOXING DAY SALE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2016

Exclusively ours

RALPH LAUREN POLO GIFT SETS

$45 each $65 VALUE

Polo Black set includes:
- Eau de toilette, 30 mL
- Body spray, 170 mL

Polo Red set includes:
- Eau de toilette, 30 mL
- Body spray, 170 mL

Polo set includes:
- Eau de toilette, 30 mL
- Body spray, 170 mL

Polo Blue set includes:
- Eau de toilette, 30 mL
- Body spray, 170 mL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2016 TO SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

RECEIVE A $10 SAVINGS CARD

when you spend $50 or more on cosmetics or fragrances in store and at thebay.com:**

HUDSON'S BAY

FREE SHIPPING AT THEBAY.COM*

Savings for all offers are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. ****Before taxes.** While quantities last. Redeemable on your next cosmetics or fragrance purchase of $50 or more before taxes. Valid in store only until Sunday, January 1, 2017. One card per transaction. Not to be combined with any other offer. Other exclusions apply. See store for details. **FROM OUR FRONT PAGE: BOXING DAY CLEARANCE OFFERS:** Includes items in our women's dress, swimwear and activewear departments. **Women's clearance fashion** excludes items in our dress, suit, outerwear, activewear and swimwear departments, The Room, Topshop, Sandro/Maje, BCBGMAXAZRIA, Toni Plus, Olsen, Radsak, Reiss, Pink Tartan, The Kooples, NYDJ, NYDJ Plus, MsMin, Moose Knuckles, Jacquemus, Diesel and Judith & Charles. **Women's clearance slippers:** In our slipper department; Excludes UGG Australia, COACH, Ted Baker and Kate Spade New York. **Women's clearance footwear:** In our footwear department; Excludes COACH, Cole Haan, Frye, Nike, The Room, UGG Australia, Dept 146 Designer Collections, Dept 875 White Space, Dept 276 Athletic, Dept 837 and 839 Rain and winter boots; Other exclusions apply, see store for details. **Clearance fashion jewellery:** Includes sterling silver; Excludes COACH. **Clearance handbags:** Includes wallets; Excludes COACH, Marc Jacobs and Kate Spade New York. **Men's clearance fashion** excludes 3.1 Phillip Lim, Adidas X Raf Simons, Adidas X Rick Owens, Alejandro Ingelmo, Alexander Wang, Alpha X Deus, Alternative Apparel, APC, Balmain, Billionaire Boys Club, Blood Brother, Boy London, Carven, Cheap Monday, Deus, Dom Rebel, Drifter, DRKSHDW, Embellish, Etudes, Filling Pieces, Fred Perry X Raf Simons, Gents, Han Kjobenhavn, Helmut Lang, Hip and Bone, I Love Ugly, Jil Sander, Judith & Charles, Junya Watanabe, JW Anderson, KTZ, Lemaire, Markus Lupfer, Marni, Matiere, MHRS, Minimum, Moschino, M56M, N. 21, Nana Judy, Obey, Opening Ceremony, Paul Smith, Penfield, Philipp Plein, Ports 1961, Publish, RVLT, Saturday NYC, Stussy, T by Alexander Wang, UNCL, Vince, Vitaly, Won Hundred, Wood Wood, Wooyoungmi and Zanerobe. ***FREE SHIPPING:** Receive free standard shipping on a total purchase amount of $99 or more before taxes. Offer is based on merchandise total and does not include taxes or any additional charges. Free standard shipping is applied after discounts and/or promotion code offers. Offer not valid at Hudson's Bay or any other HBC stores. Additional fees apply for Express or Next Day Shipping. Applies to Canadian delivery addresses only. Excludes furniture, canoes, patio furniture, patio accessories, barbeques and mattresses.